

# Official: Russia Will Destroy Tomahawk Missiles, Their Launchers



Launch of a Tomahawk missile from a Typhon mobile launcher.

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia will shoot down Tomahawk cruise missiles and bomb their launch sites if the United States decides to supply them to Ukraine and find a way to retaliate against Washington that hurts, a senior Russian lawmaker said on Wednesday.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday he would want to know what Ukraine planned to do with Tomahawks before agreeing to provide them because he did not want to escalate the war between Russia and Ukraine. He said, however, that he had “sort of made a decision” on the matter.

“Our response will be tough, ambiguous, measured, and asymmetrical. We will find ways to hurt those who cause us trouble,” Andrei Kartapolov, head of the Russian parliament’s defense committee, told the state RIA news agency.

Kartapolov, a former deputy defense minister, said he did not think Tomahawks would change anything on the battlefield even if they were supplied to Ukraine as he said they could only be given in small numbers — in tens rather than hundreds.

“We know these missiles very well, how they fly, how to shoot them down; we worked with them in Syria, so there is nothing new. The only problems will be for those who supply them and those who use them; that’s where the problems will be,” he said.

Kartapolov was also cited as saying that Moscow had so far seen no signs that Ukraine was prepar-

ing launch sites for Tomahawks, something he said Kyiv would not be able to hide if it got such missiles. If and when that happened, he said Russia would use drones and missiles to destroy any launchers.

Separately, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov urged Washington to assess the situation around the potential supply of Tomahawks “soberly.” He said any such decision would be a serious escalatory step that would bring about a “qualitative” change in the situation.

On Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russian forces had captured almost 5,000 square km (1,930 square miles) of land in Ukraine in 2025 and that Moscow retained complete strategic initiative on the battlefield.

Russia’s 2025 gains would amount to nearly 1% of Ukraine’s land area, and the country controls nearly 20% in total.

Putin, addressing a meeting with Russian top military commanders on his 73rd birthday, said Ukrainian forces were retreating in all sectors of the front. He said Kyiv was trying to strike deep into Russian territory, but it would not help it to change the situation in the more than 3 1/2-year-old war.

## Venezuelan President Signs Strategic Partnership Agreement With Russia

CARACAS (TASS) - Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro signed a decree on the entry into force of the strategic partnership and cooperation agreement with Russia.

“On October 7, I was invited to meet with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, who, in a solemn atmosphere and in the presence of the country’s leading TV channels, signed a decree on the

entry into force of the Russia-Venezuela strategic partnership and cooperation agreement,” Melik-Bagdasarov said.

The ambassador explained that with Maduro’s signing of the decree, “the Venezuelan side has completed the internal procedures necessary for the Russia-Venezuela treaty to take effect.”

Maduro timed the entry into force of the treaty to coincide with Russian President Vladimir Putin’s birthday. He asked the ambassador to convey his congratulations to the Russian leader, and assured him that “Venezuela is firm in its determination to be at the forefront of creating a just, multipolar, polycentric world order.”

## EU to Set 50% Steel Tariff as Opening Bid to Trump



BRUSSELS (Politico) — The EU announced it would double its tariffs on steel to 50 percent, in line with U.S. levels, in a bid to bring the Trump administration to the negotiating table and hammer out a deal to get them back down again.

An agreement struck earlier this year by EC President Ursula von der Leyen and U.S. President Donald Trump,

viewed in the EU as lopsided, set a baseline 15% U.S. tariff on most exports from the bloc, but left steel and aluminum at 50%.

Von der Leyen’s protectionist measure needs approval from the European Parliament but if passed will significantly reduce the existing tariff-free quota and double the tariff on excess volumes from 25% to 50%.

Under the plan, importers

would have to prove where steel was melted and poured, and quotas would be reset close to 2013 levels.

“Global overcapacity is damaging our industry,” von der Leyen said in a statement published by the commission.

The EU’s domestic steel sector was operating at only 67% capacity last year, and showed record losses, a slump which was only worsened by Trump’s tariffs.

The U.S., the bloc’s biggest customer, imported around \$8.7 billion worth of iron and steel goods last year, according to S&P Global.

However, the new tariffs would hit the UK hard, as about 78% of its steel exports go to the EU, according to trade data.

UK industry leaders have warned that the new measures could be devastating if implemented, the BBC reported.

## Colombian President Calls for Regional Unity Over U.S. Missile Strikes in Caribbean



Colombian President Gustavo Petro addresses supporters during a rally in Ibague, Colombia, Oct 3, 2025.

BOGOTA (Xinhua) - Colombian President Gustavo Petro has urged Latin American countries to stand united following U.S. missile strikes on vessels in the Caribbean.

Petro accused White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller of orchestrating the missile strikes based on the “false claim” that Colombia’s anti-narcotics strategy had failed.

“They decertified us to hide Colombia’s success in drug seizures, to legitimize crime and indiscriminate bombings,” Petro wrote on social media platform X.

“We’ve proven the opposite,” he said, noting that Colombia is set to become the world’s largest drug seiz-

er this year, with its annual seizures expected to reach 1,000 tons.

Petro said the U.S. “armed aggression” appeared to signal an intent to justify future invasions in the Caribbean, calling it an irrational response to the drug problem.

“The Caribbean is the sea of freedom,” he said. “It’s time to unite the entire Caribbean. It cannot be destroyed by lies.”

According to U.S. authorities, the U.S. military has carried out four missile strikes since September in what they describe as international waters of the Caribbean Sea, killing 21 suspected “narcoterrorists.”

## U.S. Gov’t Shutdown Triggers Air Traffic Chaos



Airports across the U.S. experienced ground delays because of a shortage of air traffic staff during the government shutdown.

WASHINGTON (The Guardian) - Staffing shortages at U.S. airports caused further disruption to air travelers on Wednesday as effects from the U.S. government shutdown, now in its seventh day, ripple out across the country.

Union leaders for air traffic controllers and airport security screeners have warned the situation is likely to get worse, as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reported staffing issues at airports in Nashville, Boston, Dallas, Chicago and Philadelphia, as well as its air traffic control centers in Atlanta, Houston and the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The airline regulator has slowed takeoffs at several airports this week as air traffic control facilities struggle to maintain staffing amid the federal government shutdown.

Travel industry analyst Henry Harteveldt told media that the risk of wider impacts to the U.S. aviation system “is growing by the day” and that the longer the shutdown goes on, the more likely it is to affect holiday travel plans in November.

Staffing shortages, including an elevated number of workers calling in sick at airports across the U.S., on Monday affected major airports around New York, Los Angeles and Denver on Monday, delaying over 6,000 flights across the U.S.

In Los Angeles, air traffic control at Burbank airport was closed and air traffic was handled by another facility. The Nashville airport was experiencing delays of around two hours because of staffing issues, the FAA

said on its website on Tuesday. At Chicago’s O’Hare airport delays averaged 41 minutes, and at Dallas-Fort Worth delays were logged at 30 minutes, the FAA said.

About 92% of the more than 23,600 flights departing from U.S. airports as of Tuesday afternoon took off on time, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium. Despite the delays, the FAA had not issued a “staffing trigger” that would reduce the number of flights in and out of airports, NBC News said.

In a statement on its website, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA), the largest union representing air traffic controllers, said it did “not endorse, support, or condone any federal employees participating in or endorsing a coordinated activity that negatively affects the capacity” of the National Airspace System.

The union said “air traffic controllers and other aviation safety professionals take their responsibility to protect the safety of the flying public very seriously. Participating in a job action could result in removal from federal service. It is not only illegal, but it also undermines NATCA’s credibility and severely weakens our ability to effectively advocate for you and your families.”

Transportation secretary, Sean Duffy, warned Tuesday that the country’s air traffic control system is being harmed by the ongoing government shutdown.

That comes as Donald Trump has signaled that some furloughed federal workers may not, as is customary, receive back pay when the government re-opens.

## News in Brief

CHICAGO/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday called for jailing Chicago’s mayor and the governor of Illinois, both Democrats, as his administration prepared to deploy military troops to the streets of the third-largest U.S. city. Neither Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson nor Illinois Governor JB Pritzker has been accused of criminal wrongdoing, though both have emerged as prominent opponents of Trump’s immigration crackdown and deployment of National Guard troops in Democratic-leaning cities. Trump’s call to imprison the two elected officials comes as another high-profile political rival, former FBI Director James Comey, was due to appear in court to face criminal charges that have been widely criticized as flimsy.

QUITO (Reuters) - The Ecuadorian government said it had filed a criminal complaint over an alleged assassination attempt on President Daniel Noboa during a visit to the southern province of Canar. Environment and Energy Minister Ines Manzano said Noboa’s motorcade came under attack in the town of El Tambo on Tuesday when it was heading to a local stadium for the launch of new public works. “About 500 people appeared and began throwing stones, and there are also bullet marks on the president’s car,” Manzano told reporters, adding that Noboa was unharmed.

MADRID (AFP) - Spanish emergency services have recovered the bodies of four people from beneath the rubble of a six-story building that collapsed in central Madrid while being refurbished into a hotel, local authorities said on Wednesday. “It is with deep sadness that we confirm that Madrid firefighters have recovered the bodies of the people who went missing after the collapse,” Mayor Jose Luis Almeida wrote on X. The victims have been identified as three men aged between 30 and 50 from Ecuador, Mali and Guinea-Conakry and employed at the site as construction workers, as well as a 30-year-old woman, the renovation project’s architect.

BERLIN (Reuters) - Germany will grant police the power to shoot down rogue drones like those that have disrupted airports across Europe and that some European leaders have attributed to a hybrid war being waged by Russia. The new law, agreed by the cabinet on Wednesday and awaiting parliamentary approval, explicitly authorizes the police to down drones violating Germany’s airspace, including shooting them down in cases of acute threat or serious harm.

ANTANANARIVO (Reuters) - Youth protesters in Madagascar on Wednesday rejected an offer to join President Andry Rajoelina’s “national dialogue” with various groups, accusing his government of repression after weeks of demonstrations in the African island nation. Inspired by similar “Gen Z” movements in Kenya and Nepal, the protests that started on September 25 pose the biggest challenge to Rajoelina’s government since his re-election in 2023, giving voice to widespread discontent over rampant poverty and high-level corruption.

BEIJING (Reuters) - China and Malaysia will hold a joint military exercise this month in the Southeast Asian nation and nearby waters, focused on measures such as disaster relief and combating piracy, the Chinese defense ministry and an affiliated media outlet said. The regular drills are part of Beijing’s efforts to build closer defense cooperation with Southeast Asian nations, despite tension in the region over contested areas in the busy waterway of the South China Sea. Participating forces set out on Wednesday from China’s military ports in Zhanjiang, Sanya, and Hong Kong, for the exercise scheduled from October 15 to 23, said the outlet, the China Military Bugle.