

# World War 3 fears as Russia to add **FOUR** nuclear submarines to Putin's terrifying fleet

RUSSIA appears to be preparing for World War Three as it plans to add FOUR upgraded nuclear-powered submarines to its Pacific Fleet, deputy defence minister Yuri Borosov said today.



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Vladimir Putin's military is set to add four nuclear subs to its Pacific Fleet

The alarming development comes after Russia deployed short-range missiles to a port city on the Baltic Sea, in a move that was described as a "threat to half of all Europeans".

Mr Borosov told journalists at the Zvezda Shipyard in Russia's Far East that he expects the four upgraded subs by 2021.

An Omsk nuclear submarine could also be added to the Pacific Fleet this year, after it was scheduled to receive the ship in 2019.

The Zvezda Shipyard, a large shipbuilding and engineering complex, will soon start work on repairing and upgrading Project 955 Borei-class nuclear

submarines.

Russia's state news agency Tass has also reported that the country's Antey nuclear-powered submarine will be upgraded with Kalibr cruise missiles.

Vladimir Putin's military has developed 11 subs in this class with his Navy currently operating just eight of them.

Each submarine has 24 Granit cruise missile launchers and six torpedo tubes.

Dalia Grybauskaitė, the President of Lithuania, revealed yesterday that Russia has permanently deployed Iskander missiles to the port city of Kaliningrad – a slice of Russia sandwiched between Lithuania and Poland.



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Russia's fleet of nuclear submarines will receive powerful additions by 2021



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Russia's deputy defence minister Yuri Borosov announced plans for the extra submarines today

Russia has said this "should hardly be cause for anyone to worry" and that it can station weapons wherever it wants on its own territory.

Moscow has not officially confirmed the placement of the missiles but a spokesman has acknowledged it.

Russia has temporarily stationed missiles there before.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "(This) is exclusively a sovereign issue for the Russian Federation.

"Russia has never threatened anyone and is not threatening anyone."



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Lithuania's President Dalia Grybauskaitė has warned about Russia missile deployment in Kaliningrad

Baltic countries are already within range of longer-range Russian missiles. Reports of the Kaliningrad deployment so near to NATO territory are seen as a threat at time when tensions are already high.

Russia hosted the Zapad military games last year which were designed to simulate an invasion of Europe.

In reference to the Iskander missile deployment, President Grybauskaitė said: "This again makes the situation even more serious because Iskanders in Kaliningrad means dangers for half of European capitals."

Latvian foreign minister Edgars Rinkēvičs said the deployment has increased the importance of discussions inside NATO about improving its capabilities.

He said: "It means that what we have been talking about - the necessity to discuss strengthening air-defence elements during the NATO summit in July; strengthening the chain of command, to talk about many questions that affect defence of our region and Latvia specifically - it all has been confirmed by the practical actions of Russia."

Russia has long said it would place the missiles in Kaliningrad in response to a US

missile shield being developed in Eastern Europe.

The US has claimed the shield is being developed to counter potential attacks from Iran.

A NATO official said on condition of anonymity: "Any deployment close to our borders of missiles that can carry nuclear warheads does not help to lower tensions.

"In the spirit of transparency, we look forward to hearing more from Russia on this.

"It is important to determine the exact situation. NATO is alert, we understand the capability, but we also understand that the Russians have been moving equipment in and out of Kaliningrad for a long time."

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