SOVIET UNION

Soviets May Have Land-Mobile SS-X-20 in Service by Mid-1976

The test program for the Soviets new intermediate range ballistic missile—the land-mobile SS-X-20—is moving along well; the new missile may be in the field by the middle of next year. A force of SS-X-20s would improve Soviet capability to deliver nuclear strikes against Western Europe and Chinal and may diminish the need to target some ICBMs against these areas.

Since the SS-X-20 flight test program began in September 1974, there have been all have been successful and all but two were conducted from the

hut two were conducted from the Kapustin Yar missile test center. Two, full-range flights of the SS-X-20 were launched in August from the operational ICBM complex at Gladkaya to the impact area on Kamchatka.

the Soviets intend to field the SS-X-20 only as a mobile missile. No new or modified silos have been identified for the SS-X-20 at the test range, which would appear to rule out their installation in silos.



The SS-X-20 probably will replace all of the Soviets 496 SS-4 medium range ballistic missiles and 87 SS-5 intermediate range: ballistic missiles: The SS-4 and SS-5 were developed and fielded in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and they lack the capabilities of newer systems. The SS-4 and SS-5 do not provide adequate coverage of China

About 80 percent of the SS-4 and SS-5 missiles are located at above-ground sites—each containing four launchers—and these are particularly vulnerable to attack. Even those missiles in silos are vulnerable because they are clustered in groups of three or four, making it likely that all could be destroyed by a single nuclear warhead.

detonated among them. Because of their proximity to the border and their slow reaction time missiles at some above ground sites are also vulnerable to conventional air attack.

The Soviets deactivated 94 SS-4 and SS-5 launchers in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Others presumably will be deactivated as the SS-X-20 enters the force, but most of the SS-4s and SS-5s will be operational for several more years

The Soviets may use the deactivated SS-7 and SS-5 sites and deactivated SS-7 and SS-8, sites as support bases, for SS-X-20 units. These sites already have some of the maintenance facilities, housing, and support sites are supported to the maintenance facilities.

that a mobile missile unit would need. The presurveyed launch positions probably will be up to 100 miles from the support bases.

The SS-X-20 will eliminate the most serious deficiencies in the existing peripheral missile force. With sufficient warning the missile semobility would make it less vulnerable to attack that the fixed SS-4 and SS-5, sites it is also considerably more accurate than the SS-4 and SS-5, and probably will be able to destroy the type of hardened targets found in China and Western Europe.

The Soviets are expected to field the SS-X-20 for use against both Western Europe and China. The SS-X-20 will also cover other areas of the Far East, as well as the Middle East.

A large force of mobile SS-X-20s might diminish the need for augmenting the pertubuted missile force with 1CBMs. During the late 1960s, the Soviets emplaced about 190 SS-11. ICBMs at sites that allowed full coverage of China, and the Far East. Other SS-11 sites were oriented so, their missiles could be used against Western Europe and the Middle East. A force of SS-X-20s, however, would be better, suited for these missions than the SS-11.

(b)(1) (b)(3)



Approved for Release: 2013/04/02 01400NE 75/2/3

The National Intelligence

Published by the Director of Central Intelligence for Named Principals Only

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13, 1975

USSR: The test program for the Soviets' land mobile SS-X-20 is moving along well; the new missile may be in the field by the middle of 1976. The Soviets are expected to field the SS-X-20 for use against both Western Europe and China

Approved for Release: 2013/04/02