# Ukraine Upgrades Naval Drones with Heat-Seeking Missiles to Target Russian Aircraft



**Ukraine Modifies Naval Drones with Heat-Seeking Missiles**

Ukraine has upgraded its Magura V5 naval drones to carry R-73 short-range air-to-air missiles, according to the Ukrainian Main Directorate of Intelligence (HUR), a branch of the defense ministry. This development enables these drones to target Russian aircraft around the Black Sea.

First spotted in early May, the missile-equipped drones have already been deployed in combat, instilling significant concern among Russian pilots. The R-73 missile, also known by NATO as the AA-11 Archer, uses infrared homing technology. Traditionally, these drones were outfitted with explosives to target Russia's Black Sea Fleet.

The new missile capability allows the drones to defend against Russian aerial patrols, enhancing their operational scope. Ukraine has also modified its Sea Baby drones with Grad rockets for land targets. These innovations form part of Ukraine's broader strategy to offset its smaller navy and air force and inflict damage on Russian assets.

In parallel developments, the West has pledged to supply Ukraine with modern fighter jets. The Netherlands and Belgium have promised to send U.S.-made F-16 fighters, while Sweden plans to provide ASC 890 surveillance aircraft. Ukrainian pilots are currently training with F-16s, with deliveries expected by year's end.