# US to Redirect Air Defense Interceptor Missiles to Ukraine Amidst Russian Threats



The United States will urgently redirect shipments of air defense interceptor missiles intended for other allied nations to Ukraine. This decision, announced on June 20, 2024, by White House National Security Spokesman John Kirby, follows increased Russian missile and drone attacks targeting Ukraine’s energy infrastructure.

Kirby stated that while it was a "difficult but necessary decision," it underscores the immediate need for Ukraine to bolster its air defenses. He did not specify which countries' orders will be delayed or the exact number of interceptor missiles to be sent, though indications suggest it could be in the "hundreds." The redirected shipments include Patriot interceptor missiles as well as systems like the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS).

This move follows President Joe Biden's remarks at the recent Group of Seven meeting in Italy, where he alluded to prioritizing Ukraine's defense needs over other countries awaiting air defense systems. Deliveries to other countries will resume once Ukraine’s requirements are met.

While some allies will face delays, Kirby reassured that shipments to Taiwan for defense against potential threats from China would not be affected. The U.S. administration emphasized that the affected allies were broadly understanding given Ukraine's critical situation. President Biden's administration has reiterated its commitment to support Ukraine against Russian aggression, reflecting ongoing high-stakes international dynamics.