

Even the best air defense systems sometimes fail

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In these words, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was forced to make excuses for the failure of the air defense systems supplied to Saudi Arabia by USA.

On the night of September 14, the facilities of the state oil company Saudi Aramco were attacked. At the same time, the American Patriot air defense systems in service were unable to stop any of the attacking missiles.

Immediately after the incident, the US Secretary of State flew to Saudi Arabia to discuss with the authorities of the country what happened. In an interview with the media, he said that „We want to make sure that the infrastructure and resources are protected so that similar attacks in the future are less successful than this”.

The American official was forced to make excuses, claiming that the cause was an overly massive attack. According to him, the United States had never before faced such a massive attack, as in the case of Saudi Aramco. The attack was classified by him as an „act of war” and the United States accused Iran of what happened. Although the Hussites from the Ansar Allah movement officially took responsibility.

The Russian side also responded to the attack. President Putin suggested that Saudi Arabia acquire Russian S-400 or S-300 systems. At the same time, it is worth noting that Riyadh has not yet responded to the proposal.

In defense of American weapons, the Patriot missile defense systems are designed to destroy enemy aircraft or short-range ballistic missiles. They provide „point defense” and are not intended for the defense of large areas of the territory. It

is also not known whether Patriot complexes are located near oil facilities.

In conclusion, I want to note that there should be more demand with the best. The American official was probably right in saying that even the best air defense systems sometimes do not work. But anyway the incident will leave a mark on the reputation of American weapons.

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