

Dispute over S-300 delivery to Iran

by UPI

MOSCOW -- A Russian military source is disputing reports in the Iranian media that Russia has begun delivering its advanced S-300 air defense system to Iran.

The Russian news agency RIA Novosti reported Wednesday that it has been told by a source in the Federal Military-Technical Cooperation Service that no shipments of the S-300 system have been made.

The source said fulfillment of Russia's 2007 pact with Iran will largely depend on the situation in international affairs and the position of the Russian leadership.

"We have delivered to Tehran a variety of equipment for defense purposes that cannot destabilize the situation in the region," a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry told RIA Novosti.

The S-300 is considered one of the world's most effective all-altitude regional air defense systems, comparable in performance to the Patriot system of the United States, the news agency said.

The contract with Iran is worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

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