UK deploys missile system in Middle East



photo: BBC

The United Kingdom has deployed a modern drone-defeating missile system in the Middle East as part of efforts to strengthen regional security. The Royal Air Force's Typhoon fighter jets have been equipped with the Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS).

According to a report by TRT World, the technology was deployed directly to the region after just a few weeks of testing and evaluation. British military officials say the decision was taken quickly due to the rising use of low-cost but attack-capable drones in the Middle East. The new system is expected to destroy drones at a significantly lower cost compared to conventional air-to-air missiles.

The APKWS technology uses radar and infrared sensors to rapidly detect enemy drones and strike targets with high precision. Experts note that it effectively turns standard rockets into guided missiles, making it easier to counter multiple drone attacks simultaneously. The RAF's 41 Test and Evaluation Squadron successfully completed its aerial trials in April.

UK Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry, Luke Pollard, said the new technology will enhance the capabilities of the air force and help bring down more drones at a lower cost. He added that Typhoon fighter jets have long been a key part of NATO's air defence operations and continue to play a major role in securing allied countries in the Middle East.

Currently, the UK has deployed its Sky Sabre air defence system in Saudi Arabia and Lightweight Multirole Missiles in Bahrain. The British government has also announced an $860 million investment plan to upgrade the Typhoon fleet. Once completed, the upgrades are expected to keep the aircraft operational into the 2040s.