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Chapter 18

Strategic Missile Forces in Ukraine: Brief Survey of Past and Present Environmental Problems

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Abstract Various environmental problems related to the former strategic missile forces located in Ukraine are outlined and analyzed. As the combat units and equipment have been disarmed and mostly utilized according to international agreements, various auxiliary units, equipment, parts, stockpiles of the rocket fuel and oxidizer remained in Ukraine outside the agreements. Unavailability of the utilization technologies caused various environmental problems linked with the outdated materials leakage, emission and other types the environmental contamination.

General survey of the current problems related to this issue is given and some mitigation steps, already taken and prospective are analyzed.

Keywords Environmental hazard • Rocket fuel • Rocket oxidizer • Strategic missile forces

18.1 Introduction

A powerful group of the strategic missile force has been inherited by Ukraine after the collapse of the USSR. It consisted of one full strategic 43rd missile army located mainly in the Western-Southern Ukraine with some divisions located in Belarus and Russia.

It is well known that activities related to strategic and conventional missile forces development and their service and auxiliary units are quite unsafe for the environment [1–3].

The following environmental effects should be taken into consideration in the analysis of this influence:

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