

'Goodbye America' — Russians Suggest Names for New Nukes in Online Vote

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Kremlin Press Service / Youtube / MT

Viewers may have been too distracted by splashy infographics and animated warheads to notice a naming contest that Russian President Vladimir Putin had announced for his new advanced nuclear weapons.

The online competition to name an unlimited-range nuclear-powered cruise missile, a nuclear-propelled underwater drone and a combat laser weapon was [launched](#) after Putin delivered his two-hour speech on Thursday.

Related article: [Putin's Nuclear Comments Launch Explosion in Russian Social Media](#)

“Those interested in military equipment are welcome to suggest a name for this new weaponry,” Putin [said](#) in his annual address to the Federal Assembly.

Loyal fans sprang into action, with suggestions on the Russian Defense Ministry’s Facebook

page [ranging](#) from the patriotic “Palmyra,” “Slavyanka,” and “Kremlin’s Hand” to the ironic “Peace Envoy,” “Boomerang,” “She Drowned” and “Goodbye America.”

The editor in chief of the pro-Kremlin RT news network Margarita Simonyan was among the first high-profile figures to [suggest](#) naming the cruise missile “Volodya,” a shorthand for “Vladimir,” in honor of Putin.

“It’s both Russian, polite, with humor and with a hint,” she tweeted.

Long-time presidential aide and one-time gray cardinal of the Kremlin Vladislav Surkov [offered](#) to name the missile after an [assassinated](#) pro-Russian guerrilla commander in eastern Ukraine.

Foreigners had their own suggestions, [many](#) of [them offering names reminiscent](#) of the British research vessel that voters overwhelmingly [chose](#) to name “Boaty McBoatface” in 2016.

The ministry said that it had received 63,000 name suggestions on its [website](#) in the first 17 hours after the competition was announced, the RBC business portal [reported](#) on Friday.

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