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### **After making a fool of itself in the conflict with Ukraine, Russia's Black Sea Fleet will receive three Zircon missile frigates**

The Russian newspaper Izvestia reported in its 25.08.2022 edition that plans are being finalised for the construction of the last two Project 22350 frigates, which will be equipped with Zircon hypersonic missiles and are destined for the Russian Black Sea Fleet (BSF).

According to the Russian publication's sources, the ninth and tenth "Admiral" series frigates, whose construction will begin this year, will receive a new radiolocation system as well as new air defence assets. The system of submarine defence ships will also be upgraded.

According to Russian military specialists, all these improvements are aimed at effective defence against an adversary's forward-looking attack means and guaranteeing the crew's ability to launch Zircon hypersonic missiles.

It is expected that by 2028 both ships equipped with Zircon missiles will be part of the MNRF.

It is also expected that by 2028 both ships will be part of the MNRF composition. The tenth Project 22350 ship has been named Admiral Vysotsky, in honour of the former Commander of the Naval Forces from 2007-2012, who passed away last year.

The Project 22350 frigates will be the first Zircon hypersonic missile platforms. Incidentally, the Northern Fleet frigate Admiral Goshkov, the first Project 22350 ship, provided missile testing, carrying out more than 10 launches from the Barents and White Seas.

On 20 August, Russian Defence Minister General Sergei Shigu announced the start of mass production of the new missiles. "Basically, the Zircon hypersonic missile has been introduced into the Naval Forces' equipment. This year, the necessary documentation will also be completed," the minister said.

According to Russian military representatives, the new Zircon hypersonic missiles will have a range of over 1,000 kilometres and will be able to reach a speed of about Mach nine. They are capable of manoeuvring in the dense layers of the atmosphere. Because of these characteristics, the missiles cannot be intercepted by even the most modern air and missile defence systems. In addition, the missile is unified and can hit both naval and land targets.

In February 2022, sources in the Russian Defence Ministry told Izvestia that officially the first ship to be equipped from construction with the new Zircon hypersonic missiles will be the Admiral Golovko, the third in the series, which will be handed over to the Northern Fleet in December this year.

Construction of the Project 22350 frigates began in 2006. The first ship of this type, Admiral Gorshkov, was handed over to the Northern Fleet in 2018, and the second, Admiral Kasatonov, in July 2021.

In addition to the third frigate, Admiral Golovko, the fourth frigate, Admiral Isakov, is in the final stages of construction. Also under construction are the fifth and sixth frigates, Admiral Chichagov and Admiral Amelko. In 2020, construction also began on the frigates Admiral Spiridonov and Admiral Yumashev.

### **The Project 22350 frigates will replace the Project 1155 destroyers in the Russian Naval Forces.**

The Project 22350 frigates will replace the Soviet-built Project 1155 destroyers in the Russian Naval Forces. They will be capable of launching both Kalibr cruise missiles and Zircon hypersonic missiles. It should be noted that these are a series of new-generation frigates equipped with modern air defence systems. They will complement the surface forces of the Northern Fleet, the Pacific Fleet and the Black Sea Fleet.

Author's comment: According to publicly available information, the 10 Project 22350 frigates will be allocated as follows: four for the Northern Fleet and three each for the Pacific and Black Sea fleets.

The first ship of this type, the seventh in the series, the Admiral Spiridonov, is expected to be inducted into the Black Sea Fleet at the end of 2026. The final two frigates, the ninth and tenth, will also be delivered to the Black Sea Fleet in December 2027 and December 2028.

The first four Project 22350 frigates have two launch facilities with eight cells each, capable of launching 16 Kalibr or Onyks cruise missiles and shortly also Zircon hypersonic missiles. Starting with the fifth ship in the series, they will have 32 missiles.

After the series of ten Project 22350 frigates, the Naval Forces leadership will acquire a new series of modernised Project 22350M frigates. They will be capable of carrying 64 Zircon hypersonic missiles, as well as 128 short-range anti-aircraft missiles or 32 medium- and long-range missiles.

Source: [https://www.defenseromania.ro/dupa-ce-s-a-facut-de-ras-in-conflictul-cu-ucraina-flota-rusa-din-marea-neagra-va-primi-trei-fregate-cu-rachete-zircon\\_617859.html](https://www.defenseromania.ro/dupa-ce-s-a-facut-de-ras-in-conflictul-cu-ucraina-flota-rusa-din-marea-neagra-va-primi-trei-fregate-cu-rachete-zircon_617859.html)

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### **The Russian Northern Fleet cruiser Marshal Ustinov has left the Mediterranean Sea. Probable destination - Severomorsk**

The Russian Telegram channel "Operational Line" reported that on 24.08.2022 the Russian Northern Fleet's missile cruiser Marshal Ustinov entered the Strait of Gibraltar from the Mediterranean Sea, most likely moving to the permanent deployment site in Severomorsk.

It is not yet known whether the ship is alone or accompanied by other warships and auxiliaries of the Northern Fleet or the Baltic Fleet.

The cruiser Marshal Ustinov entered the Mediterranean on 7 February, accompanied by the destroyer Vice-Admiral Kulakov and the frigate Admiral Kasatonov, both of the Northern Fleet.

In the Eastern Mediterranean, the ships of the Northern Fleet (NF) joined those of the Pacific Ocean Fleet (PFOF), the Black Sea Fleet (BSF) and the Baltic Sea Fleet (BSF) in the Russian squadron structure in the area of the port of Tartus in Syria.

In recent months, the Russian naval grouping in the Eastern Mediterranean has had the following composition: Submarine B-265 Krasnodar (FRMN), Submarine B-261 Novorossiysk (FRMN), Cruiser Marshal Ustinov (FN), Cruiser Varyag (FROP), Destroyer Vice Admiral Kulakov (FN), Destroyer Admiral Tributs (FROP), Frigate Admiral Kasatonov (FN), Frigate Admiral Grigorovich (FRMN), the small missile carrier Orekhovo-Zuevo (FRMN), the sea dredger Vladimir Emelyanov (FRMN), the tanker Boris Butoma (FN), the tanker Vice-Admiral Paromov (FRMN), the tanker Vyazma (FRMB), the floating workshop PM-82 (FRMB), the radio research vessel Vasili Tatischev (FRMB).

### **The main mission of the Russian ships in the Mediterranean Sea - blocking naval strike groups of NATO member states.**

Amid the conflict in Ukraine, the main mission of Russian ships in the Mediterranean has been to block naval strike groups of NATO member states. It should be noted that at one time there were three Allied aircraft carriers and their naval groups in the Mediterranean. These were the American aircraft carrier Harry S. Truman, the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle and the Italian aircraft carrier Cavour.

At present, only the US aircraft carrier Harry S. Truman remains in the Mediterranean Sea, which will be replaced in the coming period by the aircraft carrier George H.W. Bush (CVN-77), which left Norfolk Naval Base on 10 August 2022.

It is probably in this context that the Russian side has also decided to replace at least some of the combat and auxiliary ships that have been in the Mediterranean for several months. This is possible in the case of the FN, FROP and FRMB. As for the FRMN, it cannot replace its ships, given that Turkey has closed the Black Sea straits due to the conflict in Ukraine. According to the Montreux Convention of 1936, MNRF vessels that were in the Mediterranean at the time of the closure of the straits can only return to their permanent places of deployment in the Black Sea. However, no other ships may leave the region. It is also possible that the MNRF will rotate the crews of ships in the eastern Mediterranean and the Syrian outpost of Tartus, which has probably already been done.

Source: [https://www.defenseromania.ro/crucisatorul-maresal-ustinov-al-flotei-ruse-de-nord-a-iesit-din-marea-mediterana-destinatia-probabila-severomorsk\\_617855.html](https://www.defenseromania.ro/crucisatorul-maresal-ustinov-al-flotei-ruse-de-nord-a-iesit-din-marea-mediterana-destinatia-probabila-severomorsk_617855.html)

### **Rotation of Russian Federation military vessels in the Mediterranean Sea. First in six months**

The Russian Navy has carried out a rotation of warships in the Mediterranean Sea. This was the first rotation in six months, reports Andriy Klymenko, head of the Monitoring Group of the Institute of Black Sea Strategic Studies and editor-in-chief of the BlackSeaNews portal, on his Facebook page: "On August 24, 2022, the missile cruiser of the Northern Fleet

of the Russian Federation "Marshal Ustinov" (055) - ((Missile Cruiser (055) Marshal Ustinov, Northern Fleet (NF), a Slava-class missile cruiser) ) - the same type as the sunken cruiser "Moscow", sailed out of the Mediterranean Sea into the Atlantic Ocean. It arrived in the Mediterranean on 02.07.2022 together with two missile frigates 626 Vice-Admiral Kulakov, (NF) and 431 Admiral Kasatonov, (NF).

On 25 August 2022, the tanker Vyazma (NF) of the Northern Fleet of the Russian Federation, which had been in the Mediterranean since 6 February 2022, left the Atlantic via Gibraltar.

On 24 August 2022, the Russian Navy's sea tug ALTAY, project 1452, Ingul class, entered the Mediterranean Sea from the Atlantic.

Source: <https://www.blackseanews.net/read/193554>

### **Ukraine's Black Sea corridor revised to make crossings easier and shorter**

The Turkey-based Joint Coordination Centre, which oversees grain exports from Ukraine, has announced a revision of the shipping route for the Black Sea Grain Initiative to further aid the movement of ships. As the first month of the program draws to a close, everyone agrees it has been a success and the latest effort is designed to further facilitate the safe movement of ships from the three Ukrainian ports. "This route has been adjusted after the first three weeks of operations. It allows for shorter transit through the humanitarian maritime corridor and easier planning for the shipping industry," the JCC announced. The changes take effect immediately from 26 August. The new route is 320 nautical miles long and connects the three Ukrainian ports of Odessa, Chornomorsk and Yuzhny with inspection areas in Turkish territorial waters. The JCC explains that the humanitarian sea corridor, which is part of this route, extends from the limit of Ukrainian territorial seas to a southern crossing point. The new co-ordinates have been disseminated via the NAVTEX international navigation system, with all ships advised to alter this planning to follow the new route. Under the UN-brokered agreement, which is being implemented by Turkey, the JCC notes that "no military vessel, aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicle may approach within 10 nautical miles of any vessel engaged in the Initiative and transiting the corridor. Procedures state that any commercial vessel encountering provocation or threat while transiting the corridor must report immediately to the JCC." In the first three weeks of the programme, data from the UN Black Sea Grains Initiative Joint Coordination Centre shows that a total of 87 voyages have been approved by the JCC, of which seven are pending. A total of 39 voyages have been approved from the three ports. The majority of vessels (23) operate to and from Chornomorsk, with a total of 845,496 metric tonnes of food products being exported from Ukraine. At the current rate of exports, they will approach the 1 million tonne mark by the end of August. UN Secretary General António Guterres concluded his recent visit to Ukraine with a visit to see first-hand the export operations, calling the food leaving Ukraine a vital supply for the world. "A powerful demonstration of what can be achieved, even in the most devastating contexts, when we put people first," he wrote in a social media post. In the past two and a half weeks, a total of 26 ships have entered Ukraine, with another 22 approved for the voyage and currently 14 have completed or are on their round trip after loading. Nearly two-thirds of exports so far have been maize, but wheat is starting to leave, with over 100,000 tonnes being loaded for export. Other exports include soybeans, sugar beets and sunflower seeds, oil and flour.

As another demonstration of the importance of the effort, the UN points out that exports have already been directed to a dozen different countries. The list includes China, Djibouti, Egypt, Greece, Iran, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Romania and Turkey. The current pace of the operation shows that six to seven ships a day are being

inspected and cleared by the JCC in Turkey. Guterres called it all a success, saying he is confident it will make a critical difference in the supply of food from Ukraine to poor nations.

Source: <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/ukraine-black-sea-corridor-revised-to-make-passages-easier-and-shorter>

### **A new food convoy has left Odessa**

On the morning of 25 August, three more ships left Odessa's ports via the "grain corridors": two from the Odessa port and one from the "South" port. This was reported by Ukrinform with reference to the Turkish Ministry of National Defence on Twitter.

"As part of the grain transport, two ships left the port of Odessa this morning, one from the port "South", three ships in total," the Defense Ministry informed.

It is noted that 1 ship heading from Ukraine and 5 ships heading to Ukraine will be checked today by the Joint Coordination Center. Almost 2 million tonnes have been exported - since the beginning of August.

Source: <https://www.blackseanews.net/read/193519>

### **Due to shortage of personnel, missile troop specialists and sailors are sent to infantry units of the Russian Army.**

Russian troops are trying to supplement infantry units involved in the war against Ukraine at the expense of missile force specialists and military sailors, who are only undergoing basic training.

According to the Center for Investigative Journalism, the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense reports this. "In order to supplement the units that are involved in the armed aggression against Ukraine, the units of the strategic missile forces are recruiting personnel who will voluntarily express their willingness to participate in the war against Ukraine. As of 22 August, only 1% of the total number of required personnel have expressed such a wish," the message reads.

According to military intelligence, commanders of Russia's units and marines complain that the use of their troops for other purposes leads to the loss of capabilities needed to perform tasks during naval amphibious operations.

"As a result of their use in combat as infantry units, they suffer significant personnel losses. These include a large percentage of those experienced in maritime landings and conducting coastal combat operations. The additional personnel affects the military personnel of the crews of flotilla ships (flotillas), who, before being sent to the combat zone, undergo only basic training for two weeks. This further reduces the combat capability of the units," HUR pointed out.

Source: <https://www.blackseanews.net/read/193502>

### **Turkey's national submarine projects**

Submarines, which have been a strategic element of the battlefield from the past to the present, are also of critical importance to the Republic of Turkey, which is covered by seas on three sides. In this article, we will talk about submarine projects initiated by the Presidency of Defence Industries based on the needs of the Turkish Naval Forces Command and the Pakistan AGOSTA 90B Programme. In all the mentioned projects, the main player is STM Savunma Teknolojileri Mühendislik ve Ticaret A.Ş.

Mini submarine STM 500 STM 500 is a mini submarine developed by STM with its own resources. STM 500, which can be an effective factor especially in areas such as the Aegean Sea, can meet the needs of many coastal countries as well as our own country within the rapidly changing geopolitical and military structures of the 21st century, and can operate in both shallow water and open sea conditions with the latest technology. As a state-of-the-art compact submarine that will incorporate all the latest technological developments and equipment to meet global tactical needs such as reconnaissance and surveillance, special forces operations and anti-submarine warfare, it has been designed entirely by STM engineers using STM's own resources. The project, which is currently being negotiated for external applications, consists of phases and is progressing within the STM's Strategic Plans.

#### Platform:

In addition to its 18-person crew, it can operate at depths of over 250 meters for 30 days with a special forces team of 6 people, while having a total of 8 heavy torpedoes and 4 ready-to-use guided missile firing power -firing torpedo tubes. CAPABILITIES | SKILLS

- Submarine warfare
- Special Forces
- Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance
- Mine Warfare
- Shallow Water Operations
- Underwater/Unmanned Aircraft Operations
- Diving depth: 250+ metres
- Duration of stay at sea: 30 days STM 500 SENSORS AND WEAPONS
- Battle management system
- Navigation radar
- Optronic navigation and assault periscopes
- Torpedo Countermeasures - Deceivers
- Electronic Support Measures (ESM)
- Floating Antenna (BWA)
- Sonars: CAS, CTA, PRS, MAS, IDRS, ONA
- 4 torpedo tubes (2 guided missile compatible howitzers) and 4 additional torpedo

storage capacity

#### MAIN ACTUATION SYSTEM

- Permanently excited drive motor (approximately 1.5 MW) ELECTRICAL SYSTEM
- 2x Diesel Generator
- Lithium-ion batteries
- Optional: Air independent propulsion system

#### HOLDING AREA

- Comfortable living space for 18 persons
- Additional living space for +6 special forces members
- Captain's cabin
- galley, dry food, refrigerated rooms, separate dining rooms

#### New type submarine project (YTDP)

The New Type Submarine Project (YTDP), which includes the construction of six U 214 class submarine vessels with Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system built at Gölcük, was signed between the German company TKMS and SSB on 22 June 2011 and has entered into operation. The YTDP is the largest submarine construction project jointly undertaken by SSB and the Naval Forces Command to date. They are called "Reis Class Submarines" by the Turkish Naval Forces. The submarines are produced at Gölcük Shipyard Command. STM, on the other hand, has taken on important tasks such as manufacturing the composite submarine superstructure in our country and increasing the domestic contribution to the project.

Among the 6 Reis Class submarines, whose construction activities continue at Gölcük Shipyard Command; TCG Piri Reis (S-330) 2022, TCG Hızır Reis (S-331) 2023, TCG Murat Reis (S-332) 2024, TCG Aydın Reis (S-333) 2025, TCG Seydi Ali Reis (S-336) and TCG Selman Reis (S-335) will be commissioned in 2027.

The first TCG Piri Reis (S-330) submarine was launched in 2021.

Technical specifications

Length: 68 metres Length: 6.3 m Height: 13 m

Displacement: 1,690t (surface) / 1,860t (submerged)

Speed: 12kt (surface) / 20kt+ (submerged) TCG PIRIREIS TCG PIRIREIS Range: 12.000 Mm at 6 Nd speed (surface); 420 Mm at 8 Nd speed (submerged) 1.250 knots (4 knots speed + AIP) Mission depth: 250 m Service life: 84 days Crew: 27 Drive systems Diesel engine: 2x MTU 16V-396 Load generators: 2x Ntb56. 40-10 0.97 MW Electric motor: 1x Siemens Permasyn (2.85 MW) Propeller: 7 blades, silent Image result for SUBHARPOON Weapon systems 8x 533 mm Torpedo (MK-46, AKYA) 4x Sub-Harpoon Sleeves (included in 8)

### **Half-Life Upgrades Pakistan Agosta 90B Program**

The modernization of the AGOSTA 90B class submarines belonging to the Pakistan Naval Forces Command, which is the first engineering export of the Republic of Turkey in the sphere of a platform requiring strategic and advanced technology such as a submarine, was carried out by STM Savunma. Teknolojileri Mühendislik ve Ticaret A.Ş. carried out under the main contractor. STM managed to win this tender despite competition from the French company, the submarine manufacturer.

For the modernization of the French-built AGOSTA 90 B-class submarines in the inventory of the Pakistan Navy, the agreement involving the modernization of three submarines, one safe and two optional; was signed between the Ministry of Defence Production of Pakistan and STM on 22 June 2016 in Rawalpindi/Pakistan.

The modernization consists of: replacement of fire control system, sonar, electronic warfare system, radar system and periscope (cruise and attack).

As prime contractor, STM provides integration design, preparation of relevant documents, integration activities, testing and experience, and integrated logistics support services. The project is being carried out in Pakistan and all manpower is provided by PN Dockyard. Acceptance activities for the first submarine have been successfully completed.

Half-Life Preveze-class submarine upgrade

The Preveze Class Submarine Half-Life Modernisation Project, T.C. was initiated by the Presidency of Defence Industries to carry out the half-life modernisation (YÖM) of four Preveze Class submarines in the inventory of the Turkish Naval Forces Command. Preveze Class Submarine Half-Life Modernisation Project The Preveze Class Submarine Half-Life Modernisation Project covers the modernisation of the submarines TCG Preveze (S-353), TCG Sakarya (S-354), TCG 18 Mart (S-355) and TCG Anafartalar (S-356), which are in the inventory of the Naval Forces Command. This project aims at removing the existing combat systems of the 4 PREEVEZE class submarines registered in the inventory of the Naval Forces Command and equipping them with systems, most of them developed locally and nationally according to current requirements. Within the project, it is planned to use weapon and sensor systems developed for the first time in Turkey and to minimise external dependence on warfare systems. With this upgrade, Preveze class submarines will gain the capability to use Roketsan AKYA Heavy Class torpedoes.

The AKYA torpedo for Preveze class submarines, the MÜREN Battle Management System (SYS) are being developed under the "MÜREN-PREVEZE Project", under the main contract of TÜBİTAK-BİLGEM. Under the MÜREN-PREVEZE Project, which was launched in August 2017, the entire combat management system of 4 Preveze class

submarines will be upgraded with locally and nationally developed MÜREN-SYS. It is planned that the modernisation of the first vessel will be completed in 2023 and the vessel will be commissioned.

#### AY-class submarine modernisation

Within the framework of the Turkish Navy's AY Class 2 Submarine Modernisation Project, the modernisation of the electronic support, attack and navigation periscopes and inertial navigation systems of the submarines TCG DOĞANAY (S-351) and TCG DOLUNAY (S-352) has been successfully completed.

#### Luna Class submarine

The submarines, which were upgraded by the STM with national means, are actively used by the Turkish Naval Forces Command.

Main features of the Ay Class submarines

Length-Width-Desk 61.2 x 6.2 x 5.5 m

Surface displacement tonnage: 980 t.

Sunken: 1185 t.

Main engine - Electric / 4 MTU Diesel / 4600 hp / 1 Propeller

Speed 11 kt surface / 22 kt submerged

Cruising speed 8 kt / 7500 nm at surface

Personnel 9 officers - 25 NCOs

Source: <https://www.savunmasanayist.com/turkiyenin-milli-denizalti-projeleri/>

### **Finnish-Estonian cooperation turns the Baltic Sea into a NATO lake**

Finland and Estonia have reached an agreement whereby their respective navies will integrate their coastal defences so they can better coordinate and close the Gulf of Finland to enemy ships.

One area where Finnish NATO membership will have a drastic effect is on the strategic situation in the northern Baltic Sea, including the Gulf of Finland. The small bay is home to some of the world's busiest shipping lanes, including passenger ferries, oil and gas exports and other commercial shipments. From a Russian point of view, it is also the gateway to the oceans for ships operating to and from the St Petersburg region, as well as the transit route for any ships passing between the two major bases of Russia's Baltic Fleet - Baltiysk in the Kaliningrad Exclava and Kronstadt outside St Petersburg. As such, Estonian Defence Minister Hanno Pevkur's announcement to the Finnish tabloid Iltalehti earlier this month that Finland and Estonia have reached an agreement on integrating their coastal defences is a heavy blow to any Russian ambitions in the Baltic in the event of war between Russia and the alliance. The move will mean Finland and Estonia will be able to close sea lanes to and from St Petersburg to Russian surface ships, creating what Pevkur called a NATO-owned Baltic Sea hinterland. At the heart of the concept are land-based missile batteries operated by both countries, as well as surface ships of the Finnish navy. These will be Blue Spear missiles for Estonia, developed by Proteus Advanced System (a joint venture between Israel Aerospace Industries and ST Engineering Land Systems of Singapore). The system was recently presented at Eurosatory 2022. Finland currently uses Saab's RBS 15SF, which will be replaced by the IAI Gabriel V rocket in the near future.

The systems are likely to be interconnected and have high subsonic speed, modern data links, secondary ground attack capability and a range of 200-300 km. In addition, both countries operate modern Finnish-built mines of influence, and Finland has a number of shorter-range coastal defence systems such as 130mm fixed guns and SPIKE-ER missiles. These are then controlled by a command system fed by several sources, including dedicated

sensors such as the Thales BOR-A 660 handheld radar used by Finnish coastal teams or the AN/TSQ-288 trailer system donated by the US to Estonia last year.

Ironically, the first country to attempt to close the Gulf of Finland from shore was Tsarist Russia, when Nikolai II ordered coastal artillery built on both sides of the Gulf of Finland to protect Russia's capital from the Tsushima disaster. After the fall of the Tsar and the independence of Estonia and Finland following the First World War, most of them fell into the hands of the newly independent countries who held secret discussions in the interwar years about the possibility of coastal defence integration. The talks eventually stalled, and the Soviet occupation of the Baltic states after World War II meant that it would be almost a century before the plans now came to fruition.

Source: <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/08/finnish-estonian-cooperation-turning-baltic-sea-into-a-nato-lake/>

### **The US aircraft carrier George Bush has entered the Mediterranean to replace the aircraft carrier Harry Truman**

Italian sources have announced that on the morning of 25.08.2022, the US aircraft carrier George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) crossed the Strait of Gibraltar and entered the Mediterranean Sea.

The carrier's naval grouping includes the cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG-55) and the destroyers USS Delbert D. Black (DDG-119), USS Truxtun (DDG-103), USS Farragut (DDG-99) and USS Nitze (DDG-94).

On board the aircraft carrier George H.W. Bush is the 7th Aviation Wing, deployed to Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia, which includes a total of nine squadrons and detachments equipped with F/A-18E/F, EA-18G, E-2D, C-2A and MH-60S/R aircraft.

Two US aircraft carriers are currently in the Mediterranean Sea. In addition to the George H.W. Bush, the aircraft carrier Harry S. Truman is also deployed in the region, sailing in the southern Adriatic Sea and the Ionian Sea. In the coming days, it will leave the Mediterranean and return to its permanent deployment.

Author's comment: The aircraft carrier George H.W. Bush left Norfolk Naval Base on 10.08.2022. It will replace the aircraft carrier Harry S. Truman on assignment in the Mediterranean since December 2021.

During its stay in the Mediterranean, the aircraft carrier Harry S. Truman has been transferred to NATO twice, the first ship to do so since the end of the Cold War.

Source: [https://www.defenseromania.ro/portavionul-american-george-bush-a-intrat-in-marea-mediterana-urmand-sa-inlocuiasca-portavionul-harry-truman\\_617871.html](https://www.defenseromania.ro/portavionul-american-george-bush-a-intrat-in-marea-mediterana-urmand-sa-inlocuiasca-portavionul-harry-truman_617871.html)

### **Finnish Navy press release**

The minesweeper Pyhäranta ran aground today, 24 August 2022, at 18:30, west of Örö, during the Coastal Fleet firing exercise. No casualties or environmental pollution were caused. There was damage to the ship's bow structures, which resulted in minor water ingress into the forward compartment of the ship. The ship's crew acted quickly to isolate the damage and avoid water ingress; the condition of the ship is stable. No oil has leaked from the vessel into the sea. No need to evacuate the ship's crew. Navy divers inspect the outer parts of the vessel below the water surface during the evening, after which the vessel prepares to break contact with the seabed. There are other Finnish navy ships in the area. In addition, the Coastal Fleet's oil spill response vessel, Halli, and the Coast Guard's external guard vessel, Tursas, are on scene and will assist the master as necessary and secure the situation in case of environmental damage.

The Coastal Fleet is the Finnish Navy's reserve group responsible for ensuring territorial integrity at sea. The minesweeper Pyhaeranta is one of three Pansio class minesweepers. Together with several other Coastal Fleet vessels, it participated in the firing exercise that took place this week at the Öro firing range. The ship towed a floating target device for firing at sea. The situation posed no threat to other ships.

"The divers were not deployed last night for safety reasons as it was already dark. The ship's position did not change during the night and no further damage occurred. The weather in the area is good."

Source: <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/08/finnish-navy-minelayer-ran-aground-during-exercise/>