

## **British Navy Spent \$1.7M Tracking Russia's Syrian Battle Fleet**

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The Admiral Kuznetsov aircraft carrier, on duty on the Mediterranean Sea. AP

The British Navy spent almost £1.4 million (\$1.7 million) on ■tracking Russian warships as they journeyed alongside the British coast on ■their way to Syria.

The operation saw British ships escort the Russian battlegroup southwards from the Norwegian Sea and though the English channel.

The group, which included beleaguered Russian aircraft⊠carrier Admiral Kuznetsov, was tracked by Type 45 destroyer HMS Duncan and Type ■23 frigate HMS Richmond.

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The mission cost British taxpayers £1,394,000, according information released by <u>regional</u> <u>news outlet The Portsmouth News.</u>

A similar operation is expected when the battlegroup passes through British waters on their

way home to their base in northern Russia.

The Russian Navy announced Jan. 6 that the ships would be leaving the Mediterranean, having "completed" their mission in Syria.

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The Admiral Kuznetsov was first to leave the region, having faced a number of problems during its deployment.

The ship lost two aircraft after the carrier's arresting gear malfunctioned. The remaining planes were later redeployed to an airfield inland.

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