

Russia Says Britain's New Aircraft Carrier Is a 'Convenient Target' on the High Seas

June 30, 2017



A man enjoy the sea and the sun as in the background the Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov lies at anchor off Cyprus' largest port of Limassol. **Pavlos Vrionides / AP**

When Britain's shiny new aircraft⊠carrier, the HMS Queen Elizabeth, took to the high seas last week, the country's Royal Navy's were understandably keen to showcase their latest flagship to the world.

Embed:

HMS Queen Elizabeth dwarfs frigates HMS Sutherland and HMS Iron Duke as she sits off the coast of Scotland undergoing sea trials. Merlin Mk2 helicopter in the frame too. #milstagram #carrier #aircraftcarrier #royalnavy #navy #military #britain #uk #flagship

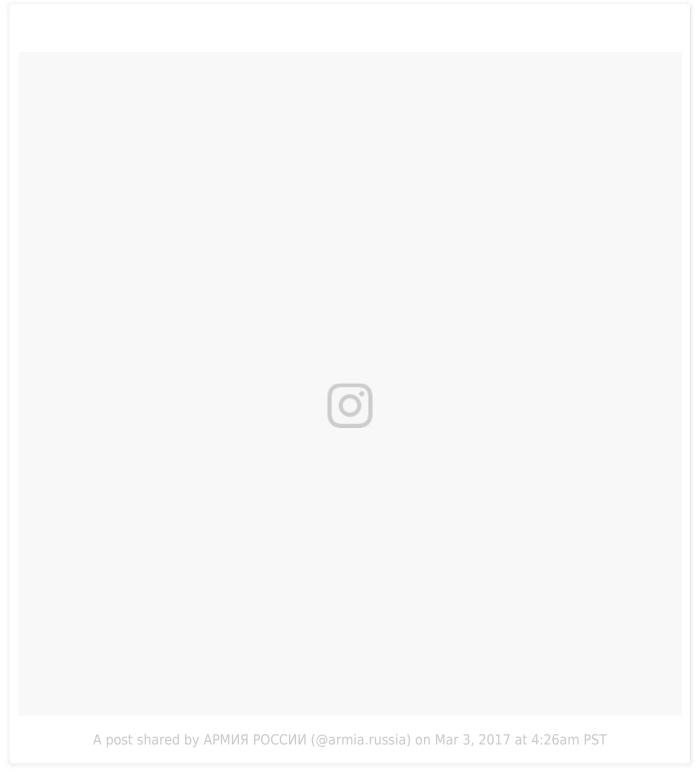
A post shared by Royal Navy (@royalnavy) on Jun 28, 2017 at 1:53pm PDT

In an interview with British newspaper The Telegraph, British Defense Secretary Sir Michael Fallon could barely contain his delight. He also couldn't resist having a dig at the Kremlin and Russia's infamous Admiral Kuznetsov: an aircraft carrier which has garnered a reputation for traversing the high seas through plumes of black smoke.

Fallon declared that the HMS Queen Elizabeth — the largest ship ever built for the British Navy — would "be the envy of the Russians."

"When you saw that old, dilapidated Kuznetsov sailing through the Channel a few months ago, I think the Russians will look at this ship with a little bit of envy."

Embed:



Moscow did not hesitate to responsd to Fallon's remarks, with Defense Ministry Spokesperson Major-General Igor Konashenkov <u>blasting his "boastful claims."</u>

"By talking about external beauty of this new aircraft carrier over**\B** the Russian Admiral Kuznetsov, Fallon is just demonstrating some rather frank ignorance of naval science," said

Konashenkov.

He described the giant British ship as a "convenient naval target."

"First and foremost, the British vessel is a defacto aircraft carrier, while the Kuznetsov is an aircraft-carrying cruiser," he said. "The British aircraft carrier is able to act as a runway for airplanes, but needs to be surrounded by a swarm of support ships and submarines to defend it. The Admiral Kuznetsov is armed to the teeth with anti-submarine and anti-ship missiles" he said.

"In light of this, it's probably in the interests of the British Royal Navy not to flaunt the "beauty" of an aircraft carrier any closer than a few hundred miles [from the Kuznetsov," he said.

Related article: <u>You Sunk My Battleship</u>: <u>Russian and British Navy Engage In High-Seas</u> <u>Trash-Talk</u>

It's not the first time that Fallon has entered into a war of words with Moscow's generals. He branded the beleaguered Russian aircraft carrier as a "ship of shame" in January 2017, accusing the vessel of "prolonging the suffering of the Syrian people."

Original url:

https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2017/06/30/russia-labels-britains-giant-new-aircraft-carrier-a-conve nient-target-a58276