

U.S. and Russia Blame Each Other for Near Collision in East China Sea

By [Reuters](#)

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Admiral Vinogradov destroyer [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Russia and the United States blamed each other for a near collision between their warships in the East China Sea on Friday with both countries accusing one another of dangerous and unprofessional behavior.

Russia's Pacific Fleet said that the USS Chancellorsville, a guided-missile cruiser, had come within just 50 meters (165 feet) of the Russian destroyer Admiral Vinogradov which had been forced to take emergency action to avoid a collision, Russian news agencies reported.

They cited a Russian Pacific Fleet statement as saying the incident took place in the early hours of Friday morning in the eastern part of the East China Sea at a time when a group of Russian warships was on a parallel course with a U.S. naval strike group.

"The U.S guided-missile cruiser Chancellorsville suddenly changed course and cut across the

path of the destroyer Admiral Vinogradov coming within 50 meters of the ship," the statement said.

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"A protest over the international radio frequency was made to the commanders of the American ship who were warned about the unacceptable nature of such actions," it said.

That version of events was rejected by the U.S. Navy, which said the behavior of the Russian ship had been "unsafe and unprofessional."

"While operating in the Philippine Sea, a Russian Destroyer...made an unsafe maneuver against USS Chancellorsville," U.S. Seventh Fleet spokesman Commander Clayton Doss said.

"This unsafe action forced Chancellorsville to execute all engines back full and to maneuver to avoid collision."

He described a Russian assertion that the U.S. ship had acted dangerously as "propaganda." The Russian destroyer came within 50 to 100 feet of the Chancellorsville, he said, putting the safety of her crew and the ship at risk.

The incident comes days after Washington and Moscow sparred over an allegedly unsafe spy plane intercept by a Russian fighter jet near Syria.

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