

# Russia Stole U.S. Hypersonic Missile Tech to Make Nuclear Advances – Bolton

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John Bolton [Gage Skidmore / Flickr \(CC BY-SA 2.0\)](#)

Russia has stolen hypersonic cruise missile technology from the United States, U.S. President Donald Trump's top national security aide John Bolton said while discussing last week's deadly explosion at a military test site in Russia's north.

The mysterious [explosion](#) that killed five Russian nuclear engineers and caused a radiation spike last Thursday has spawned conflicting theories over its cause. Amid high secrecy and the absence of thorough explanations from Russian authorities, outside observers have concluded that the explosion occurred during testing of a nuclear-powered cruise missile.

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Bolton on Russia's nuclear capability. [@VOA](#) Contributor [@Greta](#) Van Susteren

interviews National Security Adviser John Bolton in which they discussed Russia's technological advances to develop their nuclear weapons.

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— The Voice of America (@VOANews) [August 14, 2019](#)

“Something obviously has gone badly wrong here,” Bolton [told](#) the U.S.-funded Voice of America (VOA) news outlet in an interview published early Thursday, referring to the Russian explosion.

He called the accident in the White Sea “an example of Russia trying to make technological advances in their ability to deliver nuclear weapons.”

“Although Russia’s economy is roughly the size of the Netherlands’, it’s still spending enough on defense to not only modernize their nuclear arsenal, [but] to build new kinds of delivery vehicles, hypersonic glide vehicles, hypersonic cruise missiles largely stolen from the American technology,” Bolton said.

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U.S.-based experts and unnamed intelligence officials have [speculated](#) that the Aug. 8 explosion involved Burevestnik, or SSC-X-9-Skyfall, a cruise missile powered by a lightweight nuclear reactor. Russian President Vladimir Putin said last year that Burevestnik had unlimited range and the ability to avoid U.S. missile defenses.

“Dealing with this capability and the possibility that other countries would get it too remains a real challenge for the United States,” Bolton said in the VOA interview.

Trump [claimed](#) this week that Skyfall was involved in the explosion, saying that the U.S. was “learning much” from the accident and boasting that the country has “similar, though more advanced, technology” than Russia.

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