

Russian Submarines Hone Stealth Skills in Major North Atlantic Drill – Norwegian Intel

By [The Barents Observer](#)

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At least eight Russian nuclear-powered submarines sailed out from their homeports on the Kola Peninsula last week, Norwegian military intelligence told the country's National Public Broadcasting Organization (NRK).

The aim of the massive operation is to get as far out to the North Atlantic as possible without being discovered by NATO, the intelligence service [said](#). Such maneuvers from the Northern Fleet haven't been seen since the days of the Cold War.

The operation started early last week, before Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and the Northern Fleet commander, Vice-Admiral Alexander Moiseyev, [visited](#) Kirkenes in northern Norway last Friday.

Lavrov held bilateral talks with his Norwegian counterpart Ine Eriksen Söraide and at the following press conference they said that the security situation in Northern Europe was one of the topics discussed.

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On Saturday, two Northern Fleet Sierra-class submarines [sailed](#) toward the Norwegian Sea for deep-sea diving and weapon testing. This were the Pskov and Nizhny Novgorod submarines, both built with a titanium hull.

Eight of the 10 submarines that are now at sea are nuclear-powered, the intelligence service said.

The service claims to have "decent control" over the territory where the submarines are located.

- Two nuclear submarines are west of the Bear Island, between Svalbard and Finnmark, the northernmost part of mainland Norway.
- Two submarines are south and east of the Bear Island, guarding the entrance to the eastern part of the Barents Sea.
- Two Sierra-class nuclear submarines are training in the northern part of the Norwegian Sea.

Normally, the ballistic missile submarines patrol the eastern Barents Sea or around the ice cap in the Arctic.

On Oct. 17, the Delta-IV class submarine Karelia [launched](#) a ballistic missile from the Barents Sea as part of the annual large-scale strategic missile drill.

NRK reports that the operation is supposed to last 60 days. If so, the submarines will be back in port before New Year celebrations and the Russian Orthodox Christmas.

The Norwegian intelligence service said that Russia's operation aims to show the United States that the country is able to threaten the East Coast by protecting the bastion in such a way that the ballistic missile submarines can launch nukes targeted at the U.S.

Russia wants to test NATO's ability to discover and handle such operations, it added.

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