

## Russian Saboteurs May Have Targeted NATO Base – German Media

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NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany. NATO / Flicker

A possible Russian drone flyover last week prompted a NATO military base in western Germany to briefly raise its security level, media in the country <u>reported</u> Monday, citing anonymous security sources.

The Western military bloc on Friday said it elevated and then lowered the security level at Geilenkirchen Air Base due to an unspecified "potential threat." Germany, a key ally of Ukraine, has been on high alert for possible sabotage and attacks on military facilities in recent months.

NATO has used Geilenkirchen since 1980, serving as a base for its AWACS reconnaissance aircraft.

German news agency Deutsche Presse-Agentur, citing German security sources, <u>reported</u> that the security level at the air base was temporarily elevated over "intelligence findings indicating potential Russian sabotage using a drone."

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However, Geilenkirchen spokesperson Christian Brett dismissed the notion of drone flyovers as "absurd" in a statement on Friday.

Reuters on Monday cited a NATO spokesperson at Geilenkirchen who <u>clarified</u> that "the word Russia was never mentioned."

"We discussed a threat caused by drones," the unnamed NATO spokesperson was quoted as saying.

There have been no official statements regarding a specific Russian threat at the base. Moscow has repeatedly denied allegations of sabotage against Western nations supporting Ukraine's defense against Moscow's invasion.

Earlier in April, investigators arrested two German-Russian men suspected of spying for Russia and plotting attacks in Germany — including on U.S. military facilities — in an attempt to undermine support for Ukraine.

## AFP contributed reporting.

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