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NATO Jets Intercept Russian Reconnaissance Plane Over Baltic Sea

By AFP

April 24, 2025



NATO Air Command / X

Two Swedish fighter jets under NATO command were dispatched Thursday to intercept a Russian reconnaissance aircraft approaching Polish airspace over the Baltic Sea, Sweden's armed forces said.

"The plane was close to Polish airspace, so we went up to signal our presence, make a visual identification and escort it out of the area," Swedish Air Force spokeswoman Therese Akerstedt told AFP.

The Swedish jets, operating out of Malbork, Poland, identified the aircraft as a Russian IL-20. The interception occurred in international airspace, according to a statement from the Swedish military.

Sweden became a NATO member in March 2024.

Tensions in the Baltic region have grown since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/04/24/nato-jets-intercept-russian-reconnaissance-plane-over-baltic-sea-a88859