

U.S. Interceptor-missile Warship, F-15s, NATO Strike Group Enter Black Sea for “Collective Defense of Europe”

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US Sixth Fleet and Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO staff begin operations in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. This was announced by the US Sixth Fleet.

In particular, the US Navy’s command ship USS Mount Whitney will participate in joint maneuvers in the Black Sea with the allies. During the underway, Mount Whitney and the embarked staffs will operate alongside NATO allies and partners in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, working together to ensure security and stability in the region.

...Training collectively also increases coordination with NATO allies and partners at the fleet level, and sets the stage for future operations and exercises.

[Ukrainian] Minister of Defense of Ukraine Andriy Taran and Minister of Defense of the United States Lloyd Austin discussed the implementation of a framework agreement on the strategic foundations of the defense partnership and security in the Black Sea.

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[USS Porter Enters the Black Sea in Support of NATO Allies and Partners](#)

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Porter (DDG 78) entered the Black Sea on a routine patrol, Oct. 30, 2021.

U.S. Air Forces Europe-Air Forces Africa (USAFE-AFAFRICA) provided air support to Porter with a formation of F-15E Strike Eagle aircraft. Additional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft also supported the mission, including U.S. Air Force units and a P-8A Poseidon from U.S. Naval Forces Europe (NAVEUR)’s

Commander, Task Force 67.

Porter will operate alongside NATO allies and partners in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, working together...integrating with allied and partner surface and air forces. Maritime exercises and operations like this demonstrate the United States' commitment to the Alliance and to the collective defense of Europe.

The U.S. Navy routinely operates in the Black Sea to work with our NATO allies and partners, including Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Turkey, and Ukraine. The teamwork reinforces the U.S. and NATO's commitment...in the Black Sea.

"The power of alliances at sea is the ability to quickly bring together forces from many nations and aggregate naval power at the time and place of our choosing." said Capt. Kyle Gantt, Commander, Task Force 65. "These operations in the Black Sea demonstrate the commitment to interoperability among NATO allies and partners."

Porter recently completed Fleet Operational Sea Training (FOST), Sept. 30, 2021, in Plymouth, England. FOST was a three-week training and NATO certifying event involving all facets of ship operations, including advanced warfighting tactics, firing weapons systems during gunnery exercises, and seamanship and maneuvering exercises. The warfighting environments progressed from single threat to multi-threat scenarios each week, including a weekly war scenario.

Porter is one of four [soon to be six] U.S. Navy destroyers based in Rota, Spain, and assigned to Commander, Task Force 65 in support of NATO's Integrated Air Missile Defense architecture. These Forward-Deployed Naval Forces-Europe ships have the flexibility to operate throughout the waters of Europe and Africa, from the Cape of Good Hope to the Arctic Circle, demonstrating their mastery of the maritime domain.

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Featured image: USS Porter interceptor-missile destroyer. Photo: Sixth Fleet.

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