



TOP STORIES

Advertisement

NEWS

Finland to probe reports of Russia disrupting GPS during NATO drill

Finland's GPS signal was disrupted during NATO's recent military drills and Russia may have been the culprit, according to Finland's prime minister. The apparent jamming also affected air traffic in Norway.



Pilots in Finland and Norway lost GPS navigation signals during recent NATO's [large-scale Trident Juncture exercise](#) near Russia's western border.

Speaking to Finland's public broadcaster Yle on Sunday, [Finnish Prime Minister Juha Sipilä](#) said that Moscow was likely to blame for the jamming.

"Technology-wise, it's relatively easy to disturb a radio signal, and it's possible that Russia was behind it," he was quoted as saying.

We use cookies to improve our service for you. You can find more information in our [data protection declaration](#).

[More info](#) [OK](#)



Sipila is known for often piloting his private jet himself for official trips

"We will investigate, and then we will respond," he added. "This is not a joke, it threatened the air security of ordinary people."

The 57-year-old Sipila, who is also an experienced pilot, said that the incident would be treated as a breach of Finnish airspace.

The goal of the alleged Russian interference was "to demonstrate the capabilities for such actions," he said.

Looking across the border

The disturbance targeted the Finnish region of Lapland and parts of Norway near the border with Russia.

The regional Wideroe airline confirmed its pilots had experienced GPS disruptions. But it said that pilots aboard civilian planes have several contingency systems to fall back when a GPS signal is lost.

Sipila's comment came four days after NATO forces ended their two-week Trident Juncture exercise. Operations took place in Norway, parts of Finland and Sweden, the North Atlantic and the Baltic Sea and involved some 50,000 participants.

Despite Finland not being a NATO member, soldiers from the Scandinavian country also took part in the drill, a decision that angered Moscow. Finland shares a 1,340 kilometer (833-mile) border with Russia.

Last week, Norwegian media outlet Barents Observer reported on the loss of GPS signals in parts of Norway's airspace. The Oslo authorities have already accused Russia of disrupting the navigation system [during Russia's Zapad-2017 drills](#).

NATO military exercises largest since end of Cold War

dj/amp (Reuters, Interfax)

DW RECOMMENDS

What is NATO's Trident Juncture 2018 operation?

For two weeks NATO will be flexing its muscles in the harsh conditions of Norway. Some 50,000 participants will engage in a simulated invasion of Norway from an unnamed aggressor. (25.10.2018)

Russian officials tight-lipped on Zapad war games tour

Moscow has said its Zapad war games aren't a threat to the West and complaints about their transparency are unjustified. DW's Emily Sherwin toured the event herself, but Russian officials left most questions unanswered. (20.09.2017)

Finnish government survives confidence vote after nationalist split

A three-party coalition will continue with the support of a faction within the populist-nationalist Finns Party. The last week was marked by rare turmoil in Finnish politics. (20.06.2017)

AUDIOS AND VIDEOS ON THE TOPIC

NATO military exercises largest since end of Cold War

Date 11.11.2018

Related Subjects [North Atlantic Treaty Organization](#), [Russia](#), [Dmitry Medvedev](#), [Vladimir Putin](#)

Keywords [Finland](#), [GPS](#), [interference](#), [Russia](#), [NATO](#), [Trident Juncture](#), [Zapad-2017](#)

Feedback: [Send us your feedback.](#)

Print [Print this page](#)

Permalink <https://p.dw.com/p/384eO>