# UK military enhances maritime security with AI technology



UK military leaders have implemented advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies within their defence systems, particularly in response to increasing threats posed by Russia’s so-called ‘shadow fleet’. This strategic move follows a series of attacks on critical infrastructure, including deep sea pipelines, and aims to enhance maritime security across European waters.

The integration of AI into the Nordic Warden infrastructure will enable military officials to monitor and assess potential threats to vital assets situated beneath the Baltic Sea. The initiative has been spearheaded by the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF), which includes the UK among its ten member nations, along with Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, the Netherlands, and Sweden. The JEF has emerged as a key player in addressing maritime vulnerabilities, particularly after the sabotage of a significant electricity supply link last month, when the Eagle S oil tanker unintentionally severed an electricity cable alongside four telecommunications cables.

The incident involving the Eagle S, which was reportedly acting under Kremlin directives, has prompted ongoing investigations by Finnish authorities. The vessel has been detained, and a Finnish court recently denied proposals for its release. Regarded as part of Russia’s ageing fleet of tankers engaged in illicit oil transport and sabotage operations, the Eagle S has become a focal point in the examination of maritime security threats originating from Russia.

In light of rising incidents targeting power cables, telecommunications, and gas pipelines since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the JEF has mobilized its naval assets to monitor 22 designated areas across the English Channel, North Sea, Kattegat, and Baltic Sea. The UK, as the framework nation for the JEF, is taking the lead in coordinating the response to these increased maritime security challenges.

AI technology will facilitate the collection and analysis of data from diverse sources, including the Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) employed by ships to transmit their locations. Vessels identified as potentially linked to Russian activities are being closely observed in real time, and warnings regarding their movements will be disseminated among the JEF members to bolster collective security efforts.

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer expressed his support for the initiative, stating, “I am pleased we are launching this cutting-edge technology, following the JEF summit, to enhance European security.” Meanwhile, as part of a broader strategy to counter the Russian shadow fleet, the UK has imposed sanctions on 93 oil tankers associated with these operations, further underscoring its commitment to regional stability in the face of evolving threats.

As military operations and technologies continue to adapt in response to these challenges, the integration of AI represents a significant evolution in the capabilities required to safeguard critical infrastructure and maintain security in waters that are pivotal to European interests.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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