



More Muscle for the Northern Fleet

OE Watch Commentary: The *Fleet Admiral of the Soviet Union Gorshkov*, the lead ship of Admiral Gorshkov-class frigates, is the new pride of the Northern Fleet as the accompanying excerpt from Russian Ministry of Defense demonstrates. It was featured in the 2017 and 2018 Navy Day fleet parades in the Gulf of Finland and has undergone intensive testing. It is now homeported in Snezhnogorst. The Admiral Gorshkov-class frigates are replacing the Krivak-class frigates and are capable of long-range strikes, anti-submarine warfare and escort duty. The keel of the *Admiral Gorshkov* was laid in 2006 and it missed targeted completion dates in 2009, and then in 2011. It is finally here and more frigates are to follow, with a priority for the Northern Fleet. Besides the Kalibr missiles, it carries a 130mm gun, torpedo tubes and even a helicopter. Its namesake, Fleet Admiral Gorshkov (1910-1988), was the Soviet Navy commander under Khrushchev and Brezhnev and is credited with building a strong, modern, capable navy. The first *Fleet Admiral of the Soviet Union Gorshkov* ship was a Kiev-class aircraft carrier sold to the Indian Navy in 2004. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

“The frigate *Fleet Admiral of the Soviet Union Gorshkov* is the first surface ship carrying Kalibr cruise missiles in the Northern Fleet.”

Source: “Экипаж фрегата «Адмирал Флота Советского Союза Горшков» провёл учение по противовоздушной обороне в Баренцевом море (The crew of the frigate “Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union Gorshkov” held an air defense exercise in the Barents Sea),” *Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation*, 2 October 2018. https://function.mil.ru/news_page/country/more.htm?id=12197934@egNews

...The ship's crew carried out air defense training using on-board radio-technical armament and a surface-to-air missile system. The small ASW ship *Snezhnogorsk*, which launched Saman target missiles, and also aircraft of the Northern fleet's air force and air defense large strategic formation supported the mission.

During the exercise, sailors of the Northern Fleet carried out the detection and tracking of small-scale aerial targets and also rehearsed the ... use of the surface-to-air missile system. After completion of the training in the Barents Sea, the frigate will return to the Northern Fleet's main base at Severomorsk.

The frigate *Fleet Admiral of the Soviet Union Gorshkov* arrived in the Northern Fleet from Saint Petersburg on 8 September. It is part of the missile ship division -- the Russian Navy's largest surface vessel group -- which also includes the heavy aircraft-carrying cruiser *Fleet Admiral of the Soviet Union Kuznetsov* and the heavy atomic missile cruiser *Peter the Great*.

The frigate *Fleet Admiral of the Soviet Union Gorshkov* is the first surface ship carrying Kalibr cruise missiles in the Northern Fleet. It has completed a number of interfleet cruises from the Baltic Sea to the Barents Sea and White Sea for tests of surface-to-air, missile-artillery, and mine-torpedo armaments in the Northern Fleet's maritime training grounds. In the entire period of state tests, the Project 22350 lead ship has covered over 80,000 miles and completed 62 combat training exercises, including 16 firings of the main missile system....



Admiral Gorshkov Russian frigate (2018).

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