



France, drones over nuclear submarine base: military open fire

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PARIS – High tension evening in Brittany. Yesterday, **at 7:30 PM**, five **unidentified drones** flew over the naval base of **Île Longue**, in **Brittany**, the heart of **French nuclear deterrence**. This was confirmed by military authorities, who announced the immediate activation of security protocols.

According to French authorities, the military personnel tasked with protecting the site reacted by opening fire and conducting **anti-drone shots** to interrupt the overflight and secure the area.

The incident is being treated as a serious intrusion into a strictly prohibited airspace.

The heart of French nuclear deterrence

The **Île Longue** facility hosts the **four French nuclear ballistic missile submarines** **Le Triomphant, Le Téméraire, Le Vigilant, and Le Terrible**, and ensures **support and**

maintenance for the units that form the backbone of the national **deterrence force**.

As part of the French strategic posture, **at least one submarine is constantly at sea**, ready to react in case of a serious crisis.

For this reason, the base is protected by a complex security system: **over 120 maritime gendarmes** operate closely with Navy protection units, in a strictly controlled access environment.

Ongoing investigations and security alert

The authorities have opened an **investigation** to clarify who is behind the overflight, where the drones originated from, and what their actual trajectories were. It has not been disclosed whether all the aircraft were shot down or if, in addition to direct fire, **electronic warfare** systems or other countermeasures were employed.

The **Defense Minister Catherine Vautrin** confirmed the interception of the overflight, without going into technical details about the systems used.

“Any overflight of a military site is prohibited in our country”, she stated, adding: **“I want to pay tribute to the interception carried out by our military personnel at the Île Longue base”**.

The **regional maritime authorities** emphasized that during the entire event, the **critical infrastructures were never compromised** and that the security system operated in compliance with the procedures provided for such sensitive sites.

The **military prosecutor's office in Rennes** will formally open an investigation, aiming to reconstruct the exact dynamics of the overflight, the origin of the drones, their technical capabilities, and any direction behind the action.

The **Ministry of Defense** has not yet attributed the episode to any specific actor, nor has it provided further details on the operational measures taken, citing the confidentiality constraints surrounding the nuclear deterrence program.

Not an isolated case: the specter of hybrid warfare

The overflight of the Île Longue base is part of a growing series of incidents involving **drones approaching military bases, airports, and critical infrastructures** in various European countries.

In many cases, the devices are small, low-cost, difficult to detect, and to attribute with certainty.

Analysts and security apparatuses interpret these signals as part of a broader **hybrid warfare** strategy, where seemingly “minor” tools are used to test reaction times, map defenses, gather images, and create a climate of constant pressure.

A growing challenge for anti-drone defenses

The incident once again highlights the complexity of the **drone threat** for modern armed forces. Small platforms, easily available on the civilian market, can become vectors of espionage, disturbance, or, in extreme cases, attack.

For France, and for the entire European front, the protection of **nuclear sites and strategic infrastructures** requires a continuous strengthening of surveillance, identification, and neutralization systems dedicated to drones.

From Brittany comes a clear signal: the security of key bases can no longer rely solely on fences, traditional radars, and armed patrols, but must structurally integrate a **multi-level anti-drone defense**, capable of meeting the challenges of a battlefield that now extends into low-altitude skies.

News link: <https://www.euronews.com/2025/12/05/french-soldiers-open-fire-on-drones-over-nuclear-submarine-base>