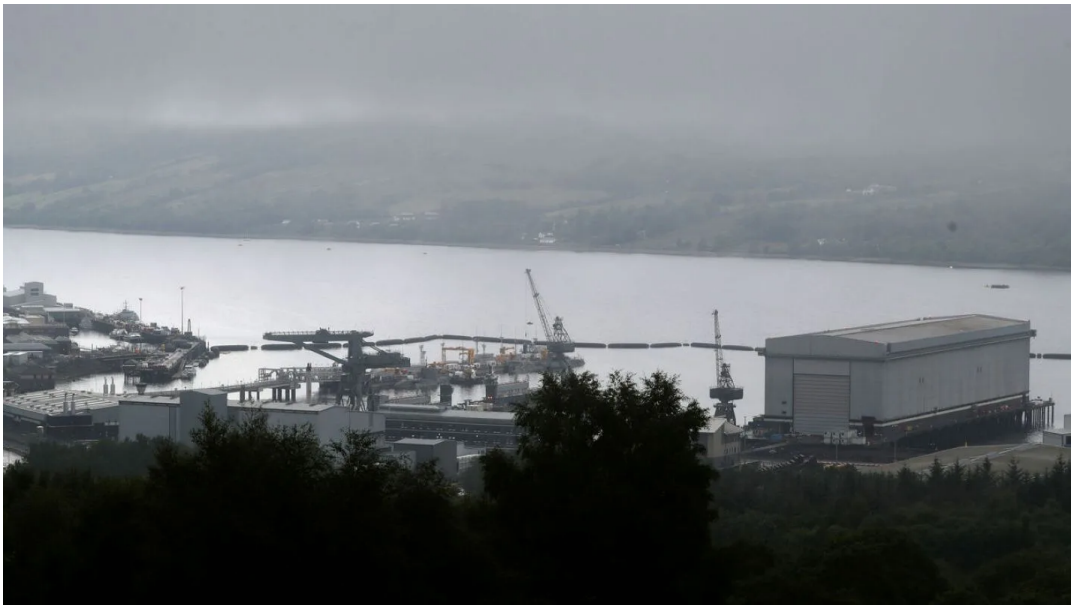

Iranian Shadow on UK Nuclear Base - Spies at Faslane and Italian NATO Bases on Alert

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Two suspected Iranian agents were arrested after attempting to break into the naval base at HMNB Clyde (Faslane), in Scotland, home to the British nuclear submarine fleet. The incident, initially reported by the newspaper *The Sun*, occurred on Thursday, March 19, in a climate of extreme tension three weeks after the start of the conflict between the United States, Israel, and Iran.

The dynamics: Around 5:00 PM, a 34-year-old man (believed to be of Iranian nationality) and a 31-year-old woman attempted to breach the gates of the base, the heart of the *Trident* nuclear deterrent. Scottish police confirmed the arrest and the launch of an anti-terrorism investigation. Although the United Kingdom is not directly participating in the bombings in Iran, its forces have actively shot down Iranian missiles and drones in the Gulf in recent weeks.

MI5 recently warned that Tehran has intensified plots on European soil, with over 20 kidnapping or assassination attempts foiled in the past year.

Iranian Espionage: Arrests at the UK's Nuclear Base and Alert in Italy

Focus Italy: The Peninsula in the Crosshairs of Hostile Intelligence

In parallel with the events at Faslane, Italian intelligence has raised the alert level across the national territory. With Italy serving as a crucial logistical platform for NATO operations in the Mediterranean, several Navy and Air Force bases are considered priority targets for espionage and sabotage.

Italian bases at risk of espionage:

- **Sigonella (Sicily):** Defined as "the drone hub," it is the nerve center for Global Hawk reconnaissance flights to the Middle East. It is considered the number one target for monitoring allied air movements.
- **Naples and Gaeta:** Headquarters of the US Sixth Fleet Command and the command ship *USS Mount Whitney*. Here the risk involves the interception of encrypted communications and the tracking of high-ranking personnel.
- **Taranto (Mar Grande):** The main naval base of the Italian Navy. With aircraft carriers and *Todaro* class submarines engaged in protecting submarine cables and energy routes, the base is subject to surveillance attempts by underwater and high-altitude drones.

- **Ghedi and Aviano:** Air bases hosting nuclear capabilities and F-35 fighters. They are monitored to capture the reaction times of the integrated air defense.

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The cyber and hybrid threat:

Sources from the Italian national security indicate that, in addition to physical infiltration attempts similar to the Scottish one, Italian bases are under constant attack in the cyber domain. "They are not only trying to get through the gates but to penetrate the servers to map our operational readiness," comment industry experts. The Ministry of the Interior has confirmed special surveillance on over 28,000 sensitive targets, including civilian ports used for military purposes.

The arrest at Faslane is a signal that the conflict in the Middle East is shifting to direct espionage in European capitals. Italy, due to its geographical position and the number of NATO installations, remains at the forefront of this "shadow war" aimed at striking the exposed nerves of Western defense.