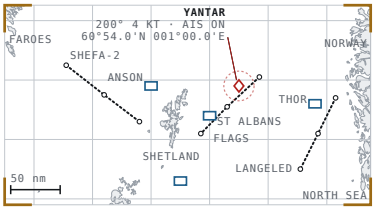
SECRET — REL GBR NOR NATO — EXERCISE — THIS IS A FICTIONAL DOCUMENT

OPERATION DEEP WATER

WE SEE YOU

A research ship that will not say what it is researching, three lines on the seabed, two long nights and a gale

FIG. 1 · NORTHERN NORTH SEA, 121800Z



WGS 84 · BA 2182C

D-DAY	DURATION	FORCE	ROE
12 NOV 2026 · 1800Z	48 HOURS	3 SHIPS · 1 SSN · 4 P-8A	WEAPONS TIGHT, ALL DOMAINS

COMMAND: MODERN OPERATIONS · SCENARIO BY TOTOBIMBO · 2026 — OPORD 26-052 · 121200ZNOV26

OPERATION ORDER 26-052

OPERATION DEEP WATER — FIND, HOLD AND PROVE RUSSIAN DEEP-WATER ACTIVITY OVER THE SHEFA-2, FLAGS / VESTERLED AND LANGELED LINES; FAROE–SHETLAND CHANNEL AND NORTHERN NORTH SEA, 12–14 NOV 26

ORIGINATOR	Commander United Kingdom Maritime Component (UKMCC), Northwood, on behalf of the UK and Norwegian Chiefs of Defence
DATE-TIME GROUP	121200ZNOV26
SERIAL	UKMCC/OPS/TG327/26-052
ADDRESSEE	Commander Task Group 327.4 (CTG 327.4), embarked HMS ST ALBANS
INFO	Norwegian Joint Headquarters (NJHQ, Reitan, Bodø) · NATO MARCOM Northwood · RAF Lossiemouth (P-8 squadrons, Poseidon Force) · 333 Squadron RNoAF (Evenes) · Commander Submarines (CTF 311, Northwood) for HMS ANSON · HM Coastguard / National Maritime Information Centre (NMIC) · Gassco (Haugesund) and the SHEFA-2 operator (liaison)
REFERENCES	A. UK–Norway agreement on joint naval patrols, December 2025 B. ROE DEEP WATER, peacetime maritime profile, edition 1 C. INTSUM UKMCC 26-316, 121000ZNOV26 D. UNCLOS arts 20, 58, 79, 87, 95, 96, 113, 246 E. Met Office shipping forecast and gale outlook, 121100ZNOV26 F. P-8 flying-hour allocations, Poseidon Force and 333 Sqn, 121130ZNOV26 G. CTF 311 waterspace allocation for HMS ANSON, 121145ZNOV26
ANNEXES	A · B · C · D · E · F · G · H · J · K · L · M
APPENDICES	B/1 Collection overlay · C/1 Operations overlay Bound as landscape sheets after Annexes B and C.
TIME ZONE	ZULU throughout. Local time is UTC in the United Kingdom and UTC+1 in Norway.
MAP REFERENCE	BA 2182C (North Sea, northern sheet) · WGS 84 · positions in degrees and decimal minutes
COPY	Copy 2 of 20

RECORD OF CHANGES

NO	DTG	CHANGE	AUTHORITY	ENTERED BY
01	121130Z	Annex D paragraph 5: flying hours allocated for the operation, transit included: **RAF P-8 crews 30 hours** between HUNTER 1 and 2; **Royal Norwegian Air Force P-8 crews 16 hours** between NORNE 1 and 2, as confirmed by NJHQ in the opening message. No further hours before 15 NOV.	UKMCC/N3	Lt Cdr OKAFOR
02	121145Z	Annex A paragraph 1 and Annex C paragraph 4: HMS ANSON placed under **tactical control of CTG 327.4** for the operation. Waterspace remains CTF 311's and is moved on request.	CTF 311	Lt Cdr OKAFOR
03	121150Z	Annex L paragraph 1: the Met Office expects a **north-westerly severe gale** over Fair Isle, Faeroes and Viking on 13–14 NOV. A warning with a forecast onset will follow during the evening of 12 NOV.	UKMCC/METOC	CPO HALDANE

DISTRIBUTION

ADDRESSEE	COPIES	MEANS
CTG 327.4, embarked HMS ST ALBANS	1–3	Secure signal
Commanding officers, HNoMS THOR HEYERDAHL and RFA TIDESPRING	4–5	Secure signal, REL GBR NOR
Commanding officer, HMS ANSON, through CTF 311	6	Submarine broadcast, extract: paragraphs 1 to 3, Annexes B, C and G
RAF Lossiemouth, Poseidon Force (HUNTER 1 and 2)	7	Secure signal, extract: Annexes A, D, F and G
333 Squadron RNoAF, Evenes (NORNE 1 and 2)	8	Secure signal, extract: Annexes A, D, F and G, REL NOR
Norwegian Joint Headquarters, Reitan	9–10	Secure signal, REL NOR
NATO MARCOM Northwood	11	Secure signal, extract: paragraphs 1 to 3, Annexes B and L, REL NATO
HM Coastguard / NMIC	12	Secure signal, extract: paragraph 1d, Annexes E and L
Gassco (Haugesund) and the SHEFA-2 operator	13–14	Liaison officer, extract: paragraph 1d and Annex E only
Permanent Joint Headquarters and the Ministry of Defence	15–16	Secure signal, paragraphs 1 to 5, Annexes J and K
UKMCC registry	17–20	Registry

> This order is issued under the December 2025 UK–Norway agreement on joint naval patrols. It is a **combined national operation**, not a NATO one, and it alters the peacetime status of no unit. The British and Norwegian units are one task group under one commander. **The Russian ships and submarines are in international waters and are doing nothing unlawful by being there.** The task is to find them, to hold them, and to prove what they are doing to our infrastructure; not to make them leave by force. If they leave because they know they are seen, that is the purpose of the operation, not its failure.

1. SITUATION

a. Adversary forces

(NR) No state of hostilities exists. The heading is doctrinal. The units below belong to the Russian Federation Navy and to its Main Directorate of Deep-Sea Research (GUGI), and are to be treated as a navy operating lawfully on the high seas until it does otherwise.

(NR) The GUGI oceanographic research ship **YANTAR** is loitering **east of Shetland**, outside UK territorial waters, around 60°54.0'N 001°00.0'E, heading about 200 at four knots, AIS on [A1]. She has given no reason for being there. Norwegian arrays tracked an **Akula-class nuclear submarine** south-west through the Norwegian Sea yesterday, making no effort to be quiet [B2]; her position today is not known. Northwood believes that a **GUGI special-purpose carrier submarine** has sailed from Olenya Guba with a **nuclear deep-diving submersible** under her hull [B3]. Neither has been held.

(NR) The same combination, a research ship, an Akula and GUGI submarines, spent more than a month over infrastructure in the North Atlantic in March and April this year, as publicly reported [A1]. Under this sea run three lines that matter to both nations: the **SHEFA-2** cable west of Shetland, the **FLAGS and Vesterled** gas lines east of Shetland, and the **Langeled** gas pipeline off Norway.

(NR) **Adversary courses of action.** The staff cannot tell which line is the target nor what is being done to it. **Everything below is a hypothesis.** There is assessed to be one task, on one line; which, is the question the operation exists to answer. Each is set out at Annex B paragraph 5, with what would show it.

LINE	WHERE	WHY IT WOULD MATTER
SHEFA-2	West of Shetland, in the deep water of the Faroe–Shetland Channel	The Faroes' and Shetland's data link to the mainland
FLAGS / VESTERLED	East of Shetland, from the Brent and Heimdal area towards St Fergus	Gas from the northern North Sea fields to Scotland
LANGELED	Off the Norwegian coast, over the Norwegian Trench	A large share of Britain's imported gas; Norway's export line

TASK	WHAT THE SUBMERSIBLE WOULD BE DOING
SURVEY	Mapping the line and its protection: for later use, by them or by others
SENSOR	Placing something on the seabed beside the line: a listening node, to be left there
REHEARSAL	Rehearsing a sabotage: charges placed against the line and recovered, as off Svalbard in the spring

a. Adversary forces (continued) — most likely and most dangerous

(NR) **Most likely, as a working hypothesis only.** The Akula is noisy on purpose and is there to be found: she draws our aircraft and our submarine while the carrier, quiet and slow, takes station near one line and puts the submersible down on it, at night if she can. YANTAR supports the work or stands over another line to be watched instead. The work takes hours, not minutes, and may come in several sessions. When it is done, or when they judge they are seen, the group goes north. The staff cannot confirm any part of this.

(NR) **Most dangerous.** A device left on, or a sabotage rehearsed against, any of the three lines without our seeing it, so that London cannot say what was done; or an incident of our own making near YANTAR, or a weapon fired, that hands Moscow the story it came for. *The staff notes that the second begins with something we do.*

(NR) **Other possibilities the staff cannot exclude.** The Akula may screen the carrier, or may try to follow HMS ANSON. YANTAR may sit over the line that matters, or over one that does not. A report of noise on a line may be a submarine, or trawl gear.

(NR) **Posture.** In November 2025 YANTAR **aimed lasers at the pilots of RAF P-8 aircraft** north of Scotland, and satellite navigation was **jammed** around HMS SOMERSET while she shadowed her, as publicly reported [A1]. Expect both again, at night. Russian weapons are assessed held in all domains. **The Russians are sensitive to being watched**: active sonar, dipping sonar and ships close aboard will tell them, and a group that knows it is watched may change its pattern or leave.

b. Friendly forces

(NR) Task organisation at Annex A: one British anti-submarine frigate with its Merlin, one Norwegian frigate, one British nuclear submarine, one fleet tanker, and four P-8A Poseidon crews, two British at Lossiemouth and two Norwegian at Evenes. **The P-8 hours are a hard limit**, Record of Changes serial 01.

(NR) **NATO MARCOM** is informed and takes the picture; it commits nothing. **HM Coastguard and the NMIC** hold the AIS picture and the fishing fleet. **Gassco** and the **SHEFA-2 operator** watch their lines and will report what their instruments see, Annex E.

c. Attachments and detachments

(NR) MERLIN 21 is embarked in ST ALBANS. HMS ANSON is under tactical control from H-hour. HUNTER 1 and 2 and NORNE 1 and 2 attach on the commander's call. **THOR HEYERDAHL has no helicopter**: the Norwegian NH90s have been withdrawn. **No Norwegian submarine and no second Merlin are available.** Annex A paragraph 7 records what was asked for.

d. Civil considerations and environment

(NR) **The lines.** Reference points on the plot mark three points on each line: **SHEFA-2 1, 2, 3**, **FLAGS 1, 2, 3** and **LANGELED 1, 2, 3**, Annex C paragraph 4. They lie in the British, Faroese and Norwegian exclusive economic zones, outside any territorial sea. **Langeled carries a large share of Britain's gas imports**, and Oslo regards its watch as Norway's first interest in this operation.

(NR) **Shipping.** Offshore supply vessels work between Shetland, the platforms and the Norwegian coast, all on AIS. Tankers and bulk carriers cross the area on AIS. **Fishing boats without AIS** work slowly in small loops on every line; they make noise, they trail gear, and they are not Russian.

(NR) **The nights are long and dark.** The moon, a thin waxing crescent, sets in the early evening. The operation has **two nights of about sixteen hours** and two short days. **A north-westerly severe gale is forecast** for 13–14 November, at its height for eight to twelve hours, Annex L.

(NR) **Opinion.** In April the Secretary of State made public a Russian operation over our cables and pipelines: "we see your activity over our cables and our pipelines", as publicly reported [A1]. The press, Parliament, the Shetland and Faroese authorities, Oslo and the markets know that it may happen again, and they will ask whether it has.

2. MISSION

(NR) **CTG 327.4 finds and holds the Russian submarines operating over the SHEFA-2, FLAGS / Vesterled and Langeled lines from 121800Z to 141800Z, establishes and proves what they are doing there, and advises London on the evidence, while keeping Langeled under watch and avoiding any incident with YANTAR, in order that the British and Norwegian governments can say "we see you" on facts, without a shot fired and without escalation.**

3. EXECUTION

a. Commander's intent

(NR) In April London said publicly that it sees what Russia does over our cables and pipelines. Seven months later the same ships are back. **This time London and Oslo want to say it again, and to be able to show it.**

(NR) **Purpose.** Evidence that two governments can stand behind in public: which line, what was done to it, and what we held on our picture while it was done. A Russian group that leaves because it knows it is seen is a success. A group that leaves with its work done and nothing to show for us is not.

(NR) **Method. Search wide, then commit.** Spread the first night over all three lines and the approaches; do not give the whole effort to the first submarine that makes a noise. **Hold what you find**: an hour held is worth more than a minute found. **Prove by two**: a contact held by two sensors, a photograph of YANTAR at work by day, the carrier held beside the line while the submersible is away from her. **Watch quietly**: the Russians hear active sonar and see ships close aboard, and a group that knows it is watched may stop what it is doing before we have proved it. **Spend the P-8 hours as if the second night mattered more than the first**, because it may, and the gale will take part of it. **Keep Langeled watched**: Oslo will not forgive a gap. **Keep clear of YANTAR**: her lasers, her jamming and her cameras are there to provoke us.

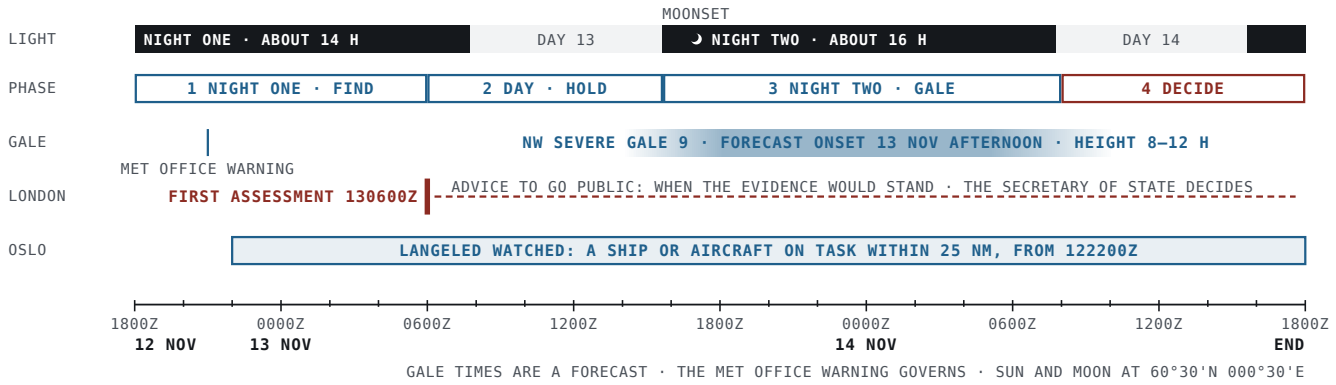
(NR) **End state.** The Russian submarines have been found and held, and London holds evidence of what they did and where. The decision to go public has been taken by the Secretary of State on my advice, at the right time or not at all. Langeled has been watched throughout. No incident has been charged to us, no British or Norwegian weapon fired, nobody hurt, and the task group is whole.

(NR) **We do not fire.** Nobody in this task group releases a weapon at a Russian submarine, in any circumstance short of Annex G serial 3. **I accept a later proof before a false one**, and I accept no proof at all before an incident that gives Moscow its story.

b. Concept of operations

(NR) The operation is conducted in four phases set by the light, the weather and London, with three continuous tasks running through all of them. Annex C sets out the phases, decision points and control measures; Appendix 1 to Annex C draws them. **CTG 327.4 plans his own search**: the areas in this order are suggestions.

SYNCHRONISATION



(NR) **Phase 1 — Night one: find (121800Z to 130600Z).** Establish the anti-submarine search over the three lines and the northern approaches with the ships, ANSON and the first P-8 sorties. Track the Akula without giving her the whole effort. Watch YANTAR from a distance. **London takes its first assessment at 130600Z** from what the task group holds by then.

(NR) **Phase 2 — Day: hold and prove (130600Z to 131540Z).** Concentrate on the line the evidence points to. Hold the contacts. Daylight is for photographs: of YANTAR if she stops with something over the side, and of anything on the surface. Recover MERLIN 21 before the gale.

(NR) **Phase 3 — Night two and the gale (131540Z to 140800Z).** Keep the hold through the gale. MERLIN 21 on deck at its height; sonobuoys and hull sonars degraded; **the towed arrays and ANSON carry the watch**. P-8 hours kept for this night are worth more than hours spent on the first.

(NR) **Phase 4 — Last day: decide and see them out (140800Z to 141800Z).** Complete the evidence; advise London on a public statement if it has not been made; follow the group north if it leaves, and keep holding while it goes.

(NR) **Continuous — Langeled.** A ship or an aircraft on task within 25 nm of the Langeled line at all times from 122200Z, Annex C paragraph 6. **Continuous — YANTAR.** Watched, photographed by day, never crowded, Annex F. **Continuous — London and Oslo.** Both governments will face Moscow, Parliament, the press, the islands and the markets within the period, Annex K.

c. Tasks to subordinate elements

ELEMENT	TASK
HMS ST ALBANS	Flagship. **Towed-array search** east of Shetland from her start, ready to move to any line on the evidence. Keep YANTAR on the picture from **beyond 15 nm** where the task allows. Parent ship of MERLIN 21. **Never inside 0.5 nm of YANTAR by her own movement.**
MERLIN 21	Merlin HM.2, dipping sonar and sonobuoys. **Close hunt on a datum**, on the commander's call: the best sensor against a small, quiet contact. **Recovered before the height of the gale.** **Torpedoes stay on the rack.**
HMS ANSON	Astute-class SSN. **The quietest and best sensor**, slow to reposition without being heard. Take a position from which to reach the line the evidence points to; hold what she finds for as long as she can. **Expect to be followed**, and report it. Waterspace by CTF 311, Annex C paragraph 4.
HNoMS THOR HEYERDAHL	Norwegian frigate. **Langeled**: within 25 nm of the line, with hull and towed sonar, unless relieved by an aircraft on task. No helicopter.
RFA TIDESPRING	Fleet tanker. Replenishment of ST ALBANS and THOR HEYERDAHL in RAS AREA ORKNEY, Annex C. **Not to be brought within 15 nm of YANTAR.**
HUNTER 1 / 2	RAF P-8A Poseidon MRA.1, Lossiemouth (about 45 minutes to the area). **The submarines**, on the lines, the Faroe–Shetland Channel and the approaches. **30 flying hours between the two crews**, transit included. **Weapons held.**
NORNE 1 / 2	RNoAF P-8A Poseidon, Evenes (about 2 hours to the area, each way). **Langeled and the northern approaches**, or any line on the evidence. **16 flying hours between the two crews**, transit included. **Weapons held.**

d. Coordinating instructions

1. (NR) **H-hour is 121800Z.** End of operation 141800Z, or on order. The opening message at H-hour (the picture, the Norwegian hours, London's expectations) takes precedence over this order.
2. (NR) **ROE: peacetime. Weapons tight in every domain; surface and subsurface weapons on HOLD** for every unit; weapon release authority withheld for every torpedo, self-defence against a submarine included. **Nobody fires.** Annex G.
3. (NR) **Active sonar is allowed, but it reveals us.** Pinging, dipping close in and ships close aboard tell the Russians they are watched. Use them when the hold is worth more than the surprise.
4. (NR) **YANTAR: keep at least 1 nm.** No ship closes within **0.5 nm** of her by her own movement, at any time and for any reason; Moscow will call it a dangerous manoeuvre against a civilian research vessel. Annex F.

5. (NR) **Laser hazard at night.** Aircraft near YANTAR between dusk and dawn stay **above 1,500 m or beyond 4 to 5 nm** of her. A crew painted opens the range at once. An eye injury sends the aircraft home and becomes the week's story.
6. (NR) **GNSS jamming.** Ships within about 15 nm of YANTAR are to expect satellite navigation to be jammed. Navigate on inertial and radar; report it; do not close her to find out.
7. (NR) **P-8 flying hours are a hard limit**: RAF 30 hours, RNoAF 16 hours, counted from take-off to landing, transit included. Warning at a quarter left; at none the crews are ordered home and do not fly again in this operation. **Plan the second night before you spend the first.** Annex D.
8. (NR) **The gale.** On the Met Office warning, recover MERLIN 21 before the height and keep her on deck through it. Plan the P-8 sorties round it. Annex L.
9. (NR) **London's first assessment at 130600Z.** London reads the task group's picture: what Russian submarines are held, and since when. Nothing has to be sent; it has to be held. Annex J paragraph 3.
10. (NR) **Going public. The decision to go public rests with the Secretary of State, on CTG 327.4's advice.** Advise it when the evidence would stand in public. A statement without proof costs more than silence; any statement will tell the Russians they are seen. Annex K paragraph 4.
11. (NR) **Langeled.** A ship or an aircraft on task within 25 nm of the line from 122200Z to the end. Oslo asks when it is not.
12. (NR) **Waterspace.** ANSON's water is CTF 311's. No active sonobuoy pattern inside it without the plot's clearance. Annex C paragraph 4.
13. (NR) PIRs at Annex B paragraph 6, plotted at Appendix 1 to Annex B. Reporting is immediate. Codewords at Annex J. Every contact, every laser, every jamming episode and every close pass is recorded unedited: **the record is what London shows**.

4. SERVICE SUPPORT

a. Logistics

(NR) **RFA TIDESPRING** replenishes the frigates in RAS AREA ORKNEY, Annex C. A frigate alongside the tanker is a frigate the picture does without for some hours: plan it by day and away from the line the evidence points to. Ports of refuge Lerwick and Bergen. ANSON is self-sufficient for the period. Aircraft cycle from **Lossiemouth** (about 200 nm, some 45 minutes each way) and **Evenes** (about 590 nm, some 2 hours each way). **The transit is paid in the same flying hours as the search**: **RAF 30 hours, RNoAF 16 hours**, Annex D paragraph 5.

b. Medical

(NR) Role 1 afloat in ST ALBANS and THOR HEYERDAHL. Role 2 ashore at Aberdeen and at Lerwick (Gilbert Bain), reached by MERLIN 21 or the Coastguard helicopters from Sumburgh. **A laser eye injury** is flown home with the aircraft and reported in clear. A casualty in a Russian ship or a fishing boat is treated exactly as our own.

c. Search and rescue

(NR) HM Coastguard (Aberdeen and Shetland) and JRCC South Norway coordinate. Sea temperature 9°C. **In the gale, after dark, a person in the water is found by light and beacon or not at all.**

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL

a. Command

(NR) CTG 327.4 exercises tactical command of the British ships and of THOR HEYERDAHL, and tactical control of HMS ANSON and of the aircraft at Annex A paragraphs 2 and 3 while on task. Operational command of the British units is retained by UKMCC and of the Norwegian units by NJHQ, which delegates it to CTG 327.4 for the period under reference A. Waterspace for ANSON remains with CTF 311. Succession of command: CTG 327.4; Commanding Officer ST ALBANS; Commanding Officer THOR HEYERDAHL.

(NR) **The advice to London on going public is the commander's own act.** It is recorded with a time and the evidence behind it, and is not delegated. Oslo is informed through NJHQ before London speaks.

b. Signal

(NR) Annex J. Maritime reporting to the UKMCC operations centre, Northwood, on the command net; info NJHQ for everything, and NMIC for anything bearing on shipping or the fishing fleet.

(NR) **Reports to London.** London (UKMCC, and through PJHQ the Ministry of Defence) requires:

REPORT	WHEN	CONTENT
FIRST ASSESSMENT	130600Z	Taken by London from the task group's picture: which Russian submarines are held, and since when. **A picture with nothing on it is noticed in London**
EVIDENCE REPORT	on each new hold	Contact, line, time held, sensors, photographs. Northwood's analysts grade it
ADVICE: GO PUBLIC	when the evidence supports it	The commander's advice to the Secretary of State, with the evidence. **Once**. The decision is the Secretary of State's
SITREP	every 4 hours	Contacts held, YANTAR, Langeled watch, P-8 hours left, weather

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

(NR) Acknowledge receipt of this order and of Annexes A to M by immediate signal, quoting serial UKMCC/OPS/TG327/26-052.

PENROSE, Alastair J.
Rear Admiral, Royal Navy
Commander United Kingdom Maritime Component
for the UK and Norwegian Chiefs of Defence

Authentication. ELPHICK, M. — Captain, Royal Navy — N3 Operations, UKMCC. Original signed copy held in UKMCC registry, Northwood.

A

Task Organisation

ANNEX A TO OPORD 26-052 · DTG 121200ZNOV26 · UKMCC/OPS/TG327/26-052

1. TASK GROUP 327.4 — SHIPS AND SUBMARINE

> Positions are those expected at H-hour, 121800Z, and are not stations. Tactical command CTG 327.4; HMS ANSON under tactical control.

UNIT	TYPE	POSITION 1800Z	REMARKS
HMS ST ALBANS F 83	Type 23 frigate, anti-submarine	60°24.0'N 000°00.0'E	**Flagship.** Heading 090, 10 kt. **Sonar 2087 towed array**, hull sonar. Parent ship of MERLIN 21
MERLIN 21	Merlin HM.2, embarked	in ST ALBANS	Dipping sonar, sonobuoys, Stingray held. Ready on deck
HMS ANSON S 123	Astute-class nuclear submarine	60°54.0'N 002°00.0'W	Heading 000, 5 kt, deep. **The best sensor in the task group.** Spearfish held. Tactical control from H-hour, Record of Changes serial 02
HNoMS THOR HEYERDAHL F 314	Fridtjof Nansen-class frigate	60°36.0'N 003°36.0'E	Heading 180, 10 kt, near Langeled. Hull and towed sonar. **No helicopter**
RFA TIDESPRING A 136	Tide-class fleet tanker	59°18.0'N 001°00.0'W	Heading 000, 8 kt. Replenishment for the frigates. Unarmed for this purpose

2. MARITIME PATROL — RAF POSEIDON FORCE, LOSSIEMOUTH

CALLSIGN	AIRCRAFT	BASE	STATE	REMARKS
HUNTER 1	P-8A Poseidon MRA.1 — radar, EO turret, sonobuoys, Mk 54 held	Lossiemouth	ready	First sortie of the night on the commander's call. About 45 minutes to the area
HUNTER 2	P-8A Poseidon MRA.1 — as above	Lossiemouth	ready	Relief or second area. **30 flying hours between the two crews**

3. MARITIME PATROL — 333 SQUADRON RNOAF, EVENES

CALLSIGN	AIRCRAFT	BASE	STATE	REMARKS
NORNE 1	P-8A Poseidon — radar, EO turret, sonobuoys, Mk 54 held	Evenes	ready	About 2 hours to the area, each way
NORNE 2	P-8A Poseidon — as above	Evenes	ready	**16 flying hours between the two crews**, as confirmed by NJHQ

4. AIRFIELDS

AIRFIELD	POSITION	REMARKS
RAF Lossiemouth	57°42.3'N 003°20.3'W	Home of the RAF P-8 fleet. About 200 nm to the centre of the area
Evenes air station	68°29.5'N 016°40.7'E	Home of the RNoAF P-8 fleet. About 590 nm to the centre of the area

5. AGENCIES — FOR COORDINATION ONLY

AGENCY	REMARKS
NATO MARCOM, Northwood	Informed. Takes the picture. Commits no unit to this operation
HM Coastguard / NMIC	AIS picture, fishing fleet, notices to mariners, search and rescue. Annex E
Gassco, Haugesund	Operator of the Norwegian gas transport system, Langeled and Vesterled included. Reports what its instruments see on the lines
SHEFA-2 operator	Watches the cable from the Faroes to Shetland and Scotland. Reports faults and noise on the line
JRCC South Norway, HM Coastguard Shetland	Search and rescue

6. SHIPPING OF INTEREST AND NEUTRAL SHIPPING

VESSEL	POSITION 1800Z	REMARK
YANTAR, GUGI oceanographic research ship	60°54.0'N 001°00.0'E	Russian MoD. AIS on. Heading 200, 4 kt. **Of interest.** Reference point YANTAR LAST POSITION
Akula-class SSN	UNLOCATED	Russian Navy. Last reported in the Norwegian Sea heading south-west, 11 NOV. **Of interest**
GUGI carrier submarine and submersible	UNLOCATED	Russian Navy, GUGI. Believed sailed from Olenya Guba. **Of interest**
F/V ADENIA, RESURGENT, ANTARES, KRISTIANSUND, ZEPHYR	on the lines	Fishing. **No AIS.** Slow, in small loops. Others will come out during the period
SKANDI NORD, NORMAND OCEAN, ESVAGT CONNECTOR	east and west of Shetland	Offshore supply vessels on AIS, between Shetland, the platforms and the SHEFA-2 line. Legitimate
NORDIC HAWK, BALTIC TRADER	crossing	Tanker and bulk carrier on AIS, crossing the area east–west. Legitimate

7. NOT AVAILABLE FOR THIS OPERATION

(NR) **No Norwegian submarine**: the Ula boats are committed elsewhere. **No second Merlin**, and **no helicopter in THOR HEYERDAHL**: the Norwegian NH90s have been withdrawn from service. **No further P-8 hours** before 15 November. **No second towed-array frigate.** These requests are recorded so that the commander knows they were made.

8. NATIONAL NOTES

NATION	NOTE
GBR	The advice to go public is the commander's; the decision is the Secretary of State's. London answers Moscow on it
NOR	Oslo's first interest is Langeled. Norwegian units remain under Norwegian national rules; NJHQ is informed of everything the task group does
NATO	Not a NATO operation. MARCOM is informed and will be told before London speaks

B

Intelligence

ANNEX B TO OPORD 26-052 · DTG 121200ZNOV26 · ORIGINATOR UKMCC N2 WITH NJHQ J2 AND GCHQ

SOURCE GRADING

Reports are graded on the standard scale: source reliability **A** reliable to **F** cannot be judged; information credibility **1** confirmed to **6** cannot be judged. A2 reliable, probably true; B2 usually reliable, probably true; B3 usually reliable, possibly true; C4 fairly reliable, doubtful. **A graded report can be wrong, and a report that a thing was not seen is not proof that it is absent.** Matters of public record are marked A1.

> Serial 01 of this annex is this text. Serial 02, the intelligence background brief for the commander and his staff, is issued separately and is consistent with it.

1. SUMMARY

(NR) **The public record** A1. In November 2025 YANTAR operated north of Scotland and towards the Faroes; lasers were aimed at RAF P-8 pilots, and satellite navigation was jammed around HMS SOMERSET, which shadowed her for eight days. In December 2025 the United Kingdom and Norway agreed on joint naval patrols. In March and April 2026 an Akula and two GUGI submarines from Olenya Guba, with YANTAR, spent more than a month over infrastructure in the North Atlantic; they were met by an RAF P-8, Merlins, HMS ST ALBANS, RFA TIDESPRING, a Norwegian P-8 and a Norwegian frigate, and many sonobuoys. On 9 April the Defence Secretary made it public: “we see your activity over our cables and our pipelines”. On 10 September the United Kingdom, Norway and the United States made public a GUGI operation near Svalbard in the spring, rehearsing the laying of a device on cables, which they foiled.

(NR) **Now.** The same ingredients are back in the same sea, seven months later. YANTAR is on AIS east of Shetland. An Akula came south-west through the Norwegian Sea yesterday, loud B2. A GUGI carrier is believed to have sailed with her submersible B3.

(NR) **This cell does not rank the lines or the tasks.** The evidence to rank them does not yet exist, and a ranking written now would be read as a finding. What follows says what each would look like, and where to look.

2. THE RUSSIAN UNITS

UNIT	POSITION 1800Z	ASSESSMENT	GRADING
YANTAR, Project 22010 research ship, GUGI	60°54.0'N 001°00.0'E	Support ship for deep-sea work: cranes, cable winches, her own small submersibles. **Lasers and jamming** before. Will film every approach	A2
Akula-class SSN	UNLOCATED	Fast and capable. **Ran noisy** through the Norwegian Sea. A submarine that wants to be heard usually has a reason	B2
GUGI special-purpose carrier, Delta IV Stretch (BS-64 PODMOSKOVYE assessed)	UNLOCATED	A large, slow, careful submarine that carries a submersible under her hull and stands off while it works	B3
Nuclear deep-diving submersible (AS-31 assessed)	with the carrier	Small and **very quiet**. Can work on the seabed for hours at the depths of all three lines	B3

3. HOW THE GROUP IS ASSESSED TO WORK

1. **The carrier stands off.** She is assessed to hold a few miles from the point being worked, slowly, for as long as the work lasts. She is easier to hold than the submersible, and her presence beside a line is itself evidence.
2. **The submersible works away from her.** She leaves the carrier, goes down to the line, works, and comes back to rest. **Held while away from the carrier, she is the best evidence there is**, and the hardest to get.
3. **YANTAR supports.** She may stop near the point while the submersible goes down or comes up, with equipment over the side. That is a photograph worth having, in daylight.
4. **The Akula draws attention**, or screens the carrier, or follows our submarine. Any of these; perhaps more than one in turn.
5. **They listen for us.** Pinging, dipping close in and ships close aboard will be heard, and reported home. A group that believes it is watched may break off, move to another point, or leave.

4. THE RUSSIAN POSTURE

(NR) **YANTAR is a state ship** with a research flag, and Moscow will call her a civilian research vessel. In 2025 she aimed lasers at aircraft that came close at night and jammed satellite navigation around a ship that shadowed her [A1]. She has never fired and has nothing to fire. **The submarines' weapons are assessed held** [B2]. Moscow's line is stated in the opening message at H-hour and is not repeated here.

5. LINES AND TASKS — WHAT WOULD SHOW EACH

LINE	INDICATORS	WHAT PROOF LOOKS LIKE
SHEFA-2	A large slow contact in the Faroe–Shetland Channel; seabed arrays reporting “west of Shetland”; YANTAR moving west	The carrier or the submersible **held** beside the SHEFA-2 points
FLAGS / VESTERLED	A large slow contact east of Shetland; arrays reporting “towards the Brent and Heimdal fields”; YANTAR slowing over the lines	As above, beside the FLAGS points
LANGELED	A large slow contact over the Norwegian Trench; arrays reporting “off the Norwegian coast”; YANTAR moving east	As above, beside the LANGELED points

TASK	WHAT THE SUBMERSIBLE WOULD BE SEEN DOING	WHAT IT WOULD LEAVE
SURVEY	Slow passes along the line, from point to point	A map of the line, in Russian hands
SENSOR	A long stop at one point	Something on the seabed. **Found, it can be recovered**
REHEARSAL	Shorter stops at several points in turn	Nothing, if done; the knowledge of how to do it for real

(NR) **One line and one task are assessed, not three.** A contact that appears where the group wants us to look is not yet a finding. Weigh every graded report for what it is.

6. PRIORITY INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS

> A PIR is a question the commander needs answered in order to decide something. Report answers immediately and directly. Do not wait to complete a picture.

PIR	QUESTION	DECISION IT INFORMS	NAI
PIR 1	Where is the GUGI carrier, and beside which line does she hold?	Where the effort is concentrated; London's first assessment	01, 02, 03, 05
PIR 2	Is the submersible away from the carrier? Where, and doing what: passes, a long stop, short stops?	Where MERLIN 21, ANSON and the P-8 go; the evidence; the advice to go public	01, 02, 03
PIR 3	Where is the Akula, and is she drawing us, screening, or following ANSON?	How much effort she is given; ANSON's movements	04, 05
PIR 4	Where does YANTAR go, and when does she stop with equipment over the side?	Where the daylight photographs are taken; which line she points to, or away from	06
PIR 5	Do the Russians know they are watched?	How close we work; when to advise going public	all
PIR 6	When does the gale set in, and how long is its height?	When MERLIN 21 is recovered; when the P-8 fly	area

7. NAMED AREAS OF INTEREST

NAI	DESCRIPTION	BOUNDARIES	COLLECTOR
NAI 01	SHEFA-2. The cable across the Faroe–Shetland Channel, 10 nm either side of the line.	SHEFA-2 1 to 3 61°15.0'N 004°54.0'W to 60°18.0'N 002°24.0'W	HUNTER, ANSON
NAI 02	FLAGS / VESTERLED. The gas lines east of Shetland, 10 nm either side.	FLAGS 1 to 3 61°03.0'N 001°42.0'E to 60°06.0'N 000°18.0'W	ST ALBANS, MERLIN 21, P-8
NAI 03	LANGELED. The pipeline over the Norwegian Trench, 10 nm either side.	LANGELED 1 to 3 60°42.0'N 004°18.0'E to 59°30.0'N 003°06.0'E	THOR HEYERDAHL, NORNE
NAI 04	FAROE–SHETLAND CHANNEL NORTH. The deep-water entrance from the Norwegian Sea.	61°27'–61°57'N 004°12'–002°24'W	HUNTER, ANSON
NAI 05	NORTHERN APPROACH. Where a submarine from the Norwegian Sea passes to any of the lines. **An area, not a position.**	61°45'–62°45'N 001°00'W–004°00'E	P-8, ANSON
NAI 06	YANTAR. Wherever she goes; her stops; her deck.	moves with her from 60°54.0'N 001°00.0'E	ST ALBANS, P-8 by day

8. COLLECTION PLAN AND ANALYSIS

SOURCE	WHAT IT CAN GIVE	LIMITS
Own ships, submarine and aircraft	Contacts held, tracks, photographs, YANTAR's movements	Annex D for ranges. The gale. The submersible is very quiet
Seabed arrays (Northwood)	Intermittent low-frequency contacts, **by area only**: west of Shetland, east of Shetland, off Norway	Graded. Not a position. **Can name the wrong area**
Norwegian arrays (NJHQ)	The noisy submarine's position about an hour old	Norwegian Sea and northern approaches. Hear what is loud
Line operators (Gassco, SHEFA-2)	Mechanical noise near a line, picked up by their own sensing	Report what their instruments hear. **Trawl gear sounds alike**
HM Coastguard / NMIC	YANTAR's AIS: where she goes, where she slows	Shows only who chooses to be seen
GCHQ	Traffic from the Russian group; whether it reports being watched	Reported when it is there. Not on request
Northwood analysts	A summary of the evidence on each line, and what it can carry in public	On request; **ask sparingly**. It never says which line is true

9. REPORTING A NEGATIVE

(NR) Sensors report what they did **not** find as well as what they did, beginning **"NO SIGN OF"**. A negative from a sensor that was in the right place long enough is evidence. A negative from one that was not is nothing. **A line is cleared by searching it, not by waiting for it to make a noise.**

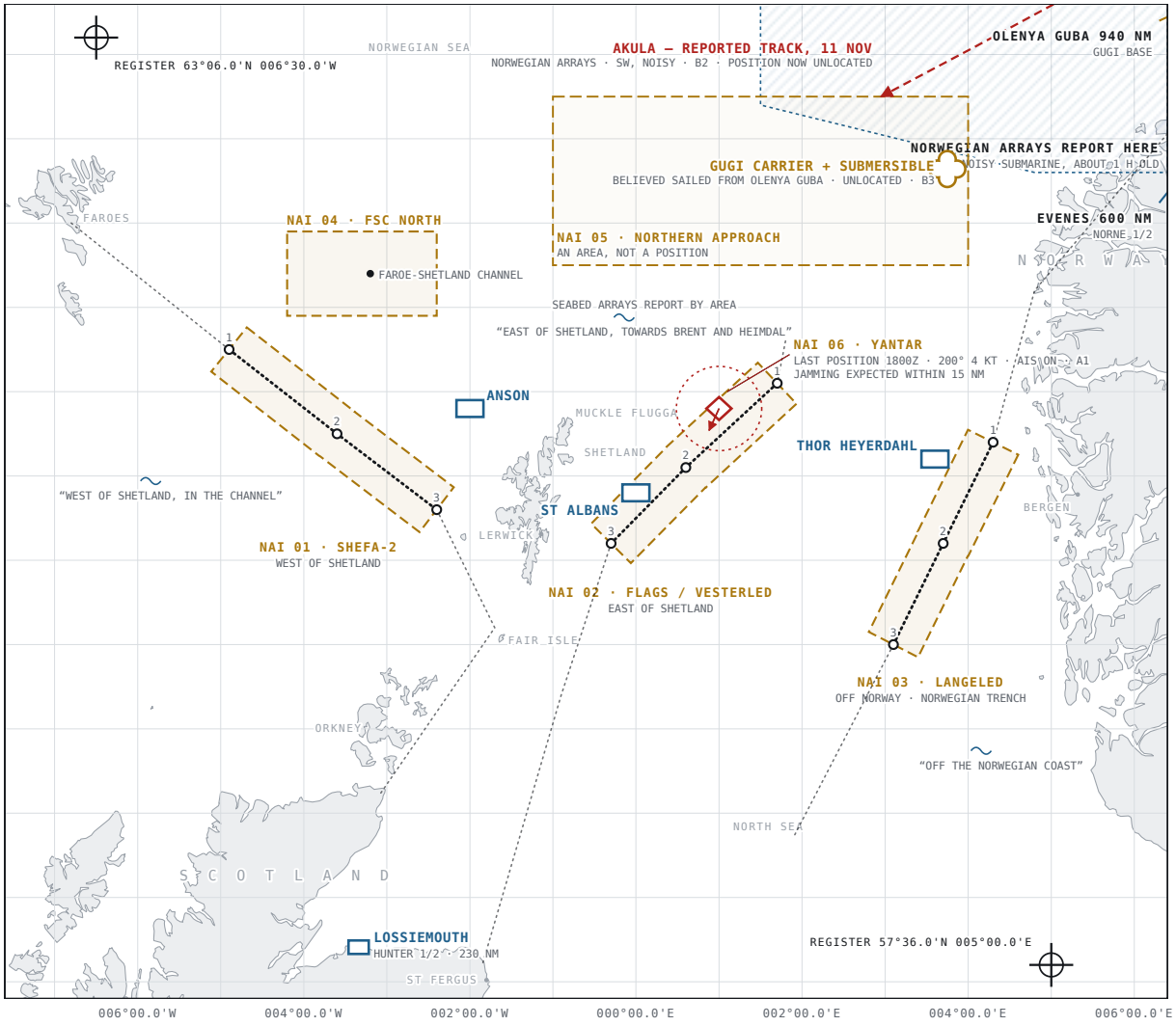
10. COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION

(NR) YANTAR films everything. **Assume every approach is on Russian television within the hour**, cut to show a warship bearing down on a research vessel. Our own record, Annex J paragraph 6, is the only answer to it. Assume every non-secure net is read in real time, and that the submarines hear our sonars as well as we hear theirs.

11. INTELLIGENCE GAPS

- Which line, and what is being done to it. **That is the question the operation exists to answer.**
- Where the carrier and the submersible are. No contact since they sailed.
- Where the Akula is now, and what she is for.
- Whether YANTAR is pointing at the line that matters, or away from it.
- How long the work takes, and when the group will leave.

ANNEX B TO OPORD 26-052 — PAGE B-4 OF B-4



COASTLINE NATURAL EARTH 1:10M, FOR ORIENTATION ONLY · LINES APPROXIMATE · LAY ON THE CHART AND REGISTER ON THE MARKS · GRATICULE 1° × 30′

APPENDIX 1 TO ANNEX B

CHARTS	BA 2182C · WGS 84
SCALE	APPROX 1:3 000 000 AS BOUND
DATUM	WGS 84 · DEG AND DEC MIN
DTG	121200ZNOV26
ORIGINATOR	UKMCC / N2 WITH NJHQ J2
SHEET	1 OF 1

COLLECTION OVERLAY

NAIS, SOURCES AND ASSESSED DISPOSITION
THE THREE LINES ARE DRAWN ALIKE: NONE IS ASSESSED MORE LIKELY

- NAMED AREA OF INTEREST
- ASSESSED APPROACH AREA
- LINE AND REFERENCE POINTS 1–3
- REPORTED TRACK (NOT CURRENT)
- ASSESSED JAMMING RADIUS
- NORWEGIAN ARRAYS REPORTING AREA

NAMED AREAS OF INTEREST · ANNEX B PARA 7

NAI 01	SHEFA-2, 10 NM EITHER SIDE PIR 1 2 · HUNTER, ANSON
NAI 02	FLAGS / VESTERLED, 10 NM EITHER SIDE PIR 1 2 · ST ALBANS, MERLIN 21, P-8
NAI 03	LANGELED, 10 NM EITHER SIDE PIR 1 2 · THOR HEYERDAHL, NORNE
NAI 04	FAROE-SHETLAND CHANNEL NORTH PIR 1 3 · HUNTER, ANSON
NAI 05	NORTHERN APPROACH PIR 1 3 · P-8, ANSON
NAI 06	YANTAR, WHEREVER SHE GOES PIR 4 · ST ALBANS, P-8 BY DAY

APP-6 FRAME = AFFILIATION

- FRIENDLY (UK, NORWAY)
- RUSSIAN — NOT HOSTILE TODAY
- NEUTRAL / CIVILIAN
- UNKNOWN / ASSESSED

GN
DECL 2°W 2026

0 — 50 — 100 NAUTICAL MILES

GRADING · SOURCE A–F, INFORMATION 1–6 · ANNEX B
NOTHING HERE IS AN OBSERVATION EXCEPT YANTAR: OTHER POSITIONS ARE THOSE EXPECTED AT 121800Z. SEABED ARRAYS NAME AN AREA, NEVER A POSITION, AND CAN NAME THE WRONG ONE.

C

Operations

ANNEX C TO OPORD 26-052 · DTG 121200ZNOV26 · ORIGINATOR UKMCC/N3

1. PHASING

PHASE	FROM	AIM	ENDS WHEN
1 NIGHT ONE · FIND	121800Z	Search established over the three lines and the approaches; the Akula tracked, not chased; YANTAR watched from a distance; Langeled watched from 122200Z	130600Z, London's first assessment
2 DAY · HOLD	130600Z	Effort concentrated on the evidence; contacts held; daylight photographs; MERLIN 21 recovered before the gale	131540Z, sunset
3 NIGHT TWO · GALE	131540Z	The hold kept through the gale with the towed arrays, ANSON and the P-8 hours kept back for it	140800Z
4 DECIDE	140800Z	Evidence completed; advice on going public if not yet given; the group followed out	141800Z
CONTINUOUS	121800Z	Langeled watched; YANTAR never crowded; no shot; London and Oslo answered	141800Z

2. DECISION POINTS

DP	TRIGGER	DECISION	INFORMATION REQUIRED
DP 1 SEARCH	H-hour; then each P-8 landing	Which lines each unit searches, and when the next sortie launches. **Hours for night two kept back**	PIR 1. Hours left in each fleet
DP 2 DATUM	A submarine contact	Hold it with what, and for how long. **Is it the noisy one?** Is it where they want us to look?	Its signature, its speed, where it is relative to a line
DP 3 COMMIT	Evidence pointing to one line	Concentrate on it, while keeping Langeled watched and a thread on the others	PIR 1, 2. Arrays, operators, YANTAR
DP 4 YANTAR	YANTAR slows or stops over a line	Who watches her, from where; a photograph at first light	PIR 4. Laser and jamming reports
DP 5 GALE	Met Office warning	Recover MERLIN 21; move the P-8 effort round the height	PIR 6. Onset and its error
DP 6 PUBLIC	Evidence the commander judges strong enough; or London's reminder	Advise the Secretary of State to go public, or not yet	An evidence summary; PIR 5
DP 7 DEPARTURE	The group turns north	Follow and keep holding as they go; release units in turn	PIR 1, 3. LINE FLUGGA reports

3. SEARCHING THE THREE LINES

(NR) Three lines, two frigates, one submarine, four aircraft crews: **there is not enough to watch everything closely, so watch everything thinly and then close in**. A shape that has served: a P-8 on the Faroe–Shetland Channel and SHEFA-2; ST ALBANS and MERLIN 21 east of Shetland; THOR HEYERDAHL and a Norwegian P-8 on Langeled; ANSON placed to reach any line. When the evidence points, move. **A large slow contact beside a line is worth a great deal; a small quiet one away from it, more.**

4. CONTROL MEASURES

DESIGNATOR	TYPE	GEOMETRY	REMARKS
SHEFA-2 1, 2, 3	Reference points	61°15.0'N 004°54.0'W 60°45.0'N 003°36.0'W 60°18.0'N 002°24.0'W	The cable, west of Shetland. Highlighted
FLAGS 1, 2, 3	Reference points	61°03.0'N 001°42.0'E 60°33.0'N 000°36.0'E 60°06.0'N 000°18.0'W	FLAGS and Vesterled, east of Shetland. Highlighted
LANGELED 1, 2, 3	Reference points	60°42.0'N 004°18.0'E 60°06.0'N 003°42.0'E 59°30.0'N 003°06.0'E	The pipeline, off Norway. Highlighted
FAROE-SHETLAND CHANNEL	Reference point	61°42.0'N 003°12.0'W	Northern entrance of the channel
YANTAR LAST POSITION	Reference point	60°54.0'N 001°00.0'E	Her position at 1800Z. **The rings of Annex F move with her**
ASW AREA WEST	Suggested area	60°09'–61°24'N 005°12'–002°06'W	SHEFA-2. P-8. SFC–FL100
ASW AREA CENTRE	Suggested area	59°57'–61°12'N 000°36'W–002°00'E	FLAGS / Vesterled. ST ALBANS, MERLIN 21, P-8
ASW AREA EAST	Suggested area	59°21'–60°51'N 002°48'–004°30'E	Langeled. THOR HEYERDAHL, P-8
BARRIER FSC	Suggested barrier	61°27'–61°57'N 004°12'–002°24'W	Across the channel's northern entrance. P-8
WATERSPACE ANSON	Submarine water	60°45'–61°30'N 003°00'W–001°00'E	Initial. **Moved by CTF 311 on request**, within the hour. No active buoys inside without clearance
RAS AREA ORKNEY	Replenishment area	59°10'–59°40'N 001°20'–000°20'W	TIDESPRING. By day where possible
LANGELED WATCH	Watch area	25 nm from LANGELED 1, 2, 3	A ship, or an aircraft on task, inside it from 122200Z. Paragraph 6
LINE FLUGGA	Reporting line	62°00'N, from 005°00'W to 005°00'E	Report any submarine contact crossing it, either way
AXIS LOSSIE	Air transit	Lossiemouth – 59°12.0'N 002°00.0'W	HUNTER. Clear of Orkney and Fair Isle traffic
AXIS EVENES	Air transit	Evenes – 64°00.0'N 006°00.0'E – 61°48.0'N 003°30.0'E	NORNE. Down the Norwegian coast, offshore
DATUM	Plot mark	laid on contact	Laid by the plot on each submarine contact; moved while contact is held

5. YANTAR

(NR) The 1 nm and 0.5 nm rings, the laser zone and the jamming radius move with her, Annex F. Watch her from beyond 15 nm by radar and AIS; close to photograph by day only, by air.

6. LANGELED

(NR) From 122200Z to the end, **a ship, ANSON, or an aircraft airborne on task within 25 nm of a LANGELED point at all times**. THOR HEYERDAHL normally; a NORNE when she replenishes or is drawn elsewhere. A gap is noticed in Oslo within hours.

7. WHEN THE GROUP LEAVES

(NR) The Russian group is expected to go north when its work is done, when it judges itself seen, or when its time runs out. **Keep holding as they go**: a carrier and a submersible held on their way out are still evidence, and the line they leave is the line they came for. Report each contact crossing LINE FLUGGA. Release units in turn, Langeled last.

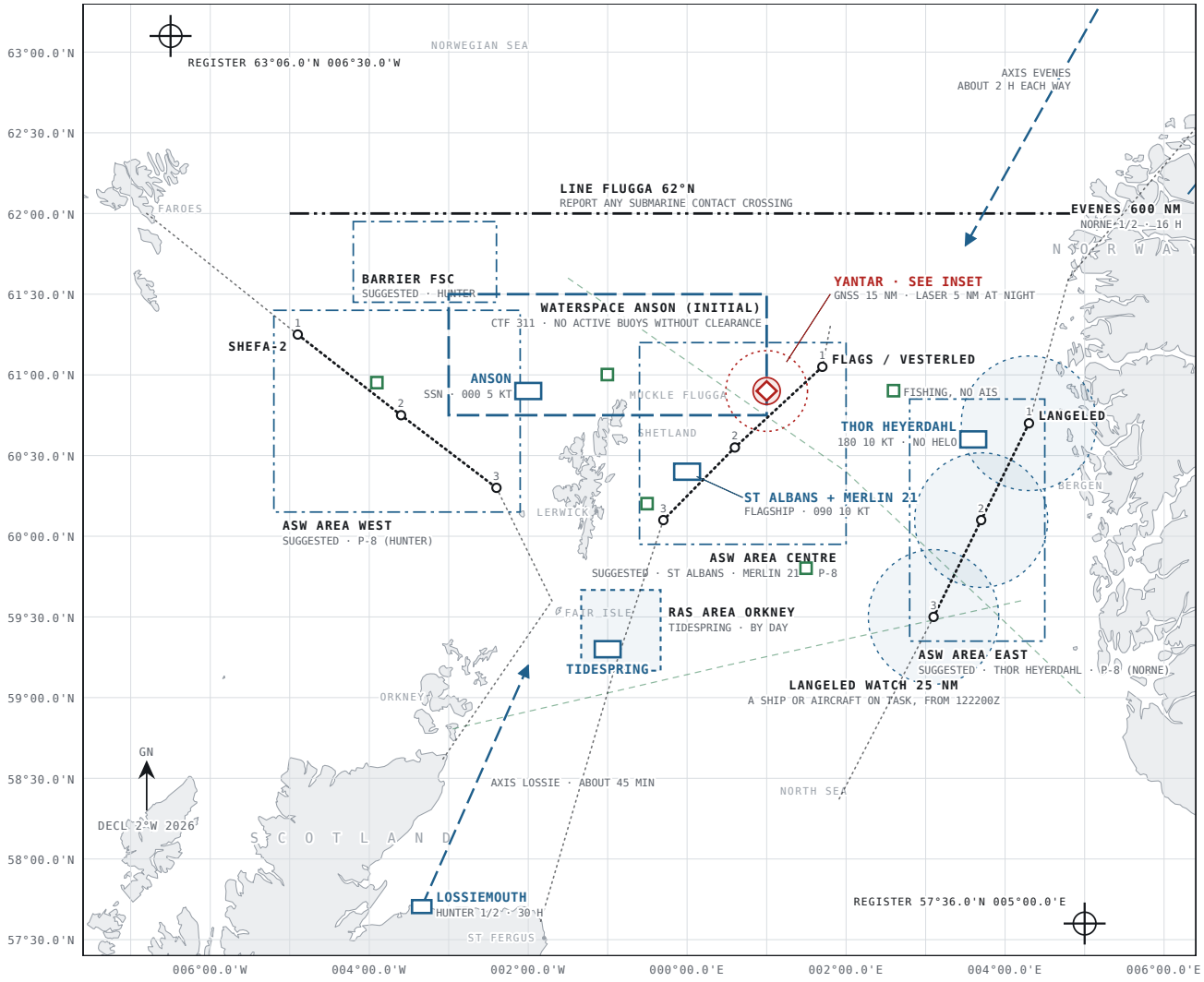
8. WATERSPACE AND MUTUAL INTERFERENCE

(NR) ANSON's water is moved by CTF 311 on request, within the hour. Inside it, aircraft lay passive buoys only, unless the plot has cleared an active pattern with ANSON. Ships keep their towed bodies out of it unless cleared. **Two friendly submarine contacts are not one Russian one**: every contact inside ANSON's water is checked against her position before it is reported.

9. RECOVERY AND REPLENISHMENT

(NR) MERLIN 21 is recovered before the height of the gale and stays on deck through it. ST ALBANS and THOR HEYERDAHL replenish from TIDESPRING in RAS AREA ORKNEY by day, one at a time, and **not while she is the only ship on a line the evidence points to**. THOR HEYERDAHL's absence from Langeled is covered by a NORNE.

ANNEX C TO OPORD 26-052 — PAGE C-3 OF C-3



COASTLINE NATURAL EARTH 1:10M, FOR ORIENTATION ONLY · LINES APPROXIMATE · LAY ON THE CHART AND REGISTER ON THE MARKS · DISTANCES IN NAUTICAL MILES

APPENDIX 1 TO ANNEX C

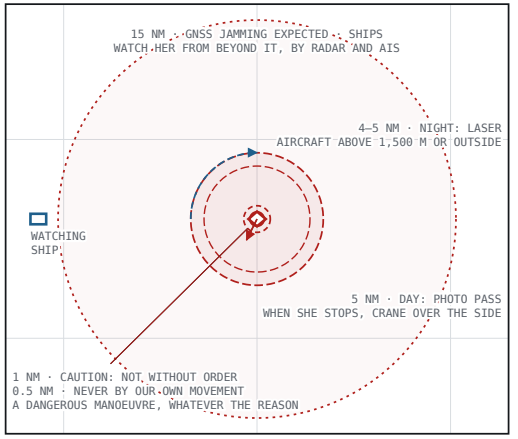
CHARTS	BA 2182C · WGS 84
SCALE	APPROX 1:3 000 000 · INSET 1:600 000
DATUM	WGS 84 · DEG AND DEC MIN
DTG	121200ZNOV26
ORIGINATOR	UKMCC / N3
SHEET	1 OF 1

OPERATIONS OVERLAY

OPORD 26-052 · OPERATION DEEP WATER · 12–14 NOV 26
AREAS ARE SUGGESTIONS: CTG 327.4 PLANS HIS OWN SEARCH

- SUGGESTED ASW AREA / BARRIER
- SUBMARINE WATERSPACE (CTF 311)
- LANGELED WATCH 25 NM / RAS AREA
- AIR TRANSIT AXIS
- REPORTING LINE
- LINE AND REFERENCE POINTS 1–3
- GNSS JAMMING EXPECTED, 15 NM
- MERCHANT TRAFFIC (REFERENCE)

INSET · YANTAR · DISTANCES OF CONDUCT · RINGS MOVE WITH HER



FRIENDLY · RUSSIAN · CIVILIAN · UNKNOWN

MAIN MAP SCALE
0 50 100 NAUTICAL MILES

INSET SCALE
0 5 10 NAUTICAL MILES

D

Anti-submarine warfare and maritime air

ANNEX D TO OPORD 26-052 · TASKING FOR 121800Z–141800Z · POSEIDON FORCE AND 333 SQN IN SUPPORT

(NR) A maritime support tasking. It allocates aircraft, hours and areas; **CTG 327.4 establishes the ASW search plan and the air plan himself** and re-tasks within the allocation without reference. **The P-8 hours are spent once.** Plan them over the whole operation, not the first night.

1. MISSION LINES

MSN	CALLSIGN	TYPE AND FIT	VUL	STATION	TASK
3271	HUNTER 1	P-8A MRA.1 — radar, EO, sonobuoys, Mk 54 held	on call	as tasked by CTG	Submarines; surface picture. PIR 1, 2, 3
3272	HUNTER 2	P-8A MRA.1 — as above	on call	as tasked by CTG	Relief of 3271, or second area
3273	NORNE 1	P-8A — radar, EO, sonobuoys, Mk 54 held	on call	as tasked by CTG	Langeled and the northern approach; any line on the evidence
3274	NORNE 2	P-8A — as above	on call	as tasked by CTG	Relief of 3273
3275	MERLIN 21	Merlin HM.2 — dipping sonar, sonobuoys, Stingray held	on call	a datum	Close hunt. Not at the height of the gale

2. AIRSPACE AND CONTROL

(NR) Military control by the Control and Reporting Centre and by ST ALBANS for aircraft on task. ASW areas SFC to FL100. **At night, no aircraft below 1,500 m within 5 nm of YANTAR**, Annex F. Offshore helicopter traffic to the platforms flies low on published routes: deconflict with Aberdeen and Sola.

3. SUBMARINE DETECTION — PLANNING RANGES

SENSOR	PLANNING RANGE	REMARK
HMS ANSON, bow and flank arrays	10 nm	The best sensor, passive and silent. Slow to move without being heard
HMS ST ALBANS, Sonar 2087	10 nm	Continuous; at its best at low speed. Still works in the gale
THOR HEYERDAHL, hull and towed sonar	10 nm	As above
P-8A, sonobuoy field	8 nm	Only while on task, and only as many buoys as are laid
MERLIN 21, dipping sonar	4 nm	Airborne only. None at the height of the gale. **Heard when it pings**

(NR) **Degradation.** The submersible is very quiet: holding her usually takes ANSON, MERLIN 21 dipping close in, or buoys laid over the line. The carrier is easier. The height of the gale degrades sonobuoys and hull sonars; the towed arrays keep working at low speed. **These are planning values, not promises.**

4. THE SUBMARINES — HELD, NOT ATTACKED

(NR) On contact the plot lays a **DATUM** and moves it while contact is held. A contact lost is reported with its last datum. **Hold what you find**: the length of the hold is the evidence. **Two sensors on the same contact** at once is worth more than one. **No weapon is released under any circumstances short of Annex G serial 3.**

5. THE FLYING-HOUR ALLOCATION

RESOURCE	FOR THE OPERATION	RULE
RAF P-8 hours, HUNTER 1 and 2 together	30 h	Counted airborne, **transit included** (about 45 minutes each way). Warning at a quarter left. At none: both crews ordered home, and the aircraft do not fly again in this operation
RNoAF P-8 hours, NORNE 1 and 2 together	16 h	As above; **about 2 hours each way**. As confirmed by NJHQ at H-hour
MERLIN 21	–	Limited by the deck and the weather, not by an allocation

(NR) **A planning shape, not an order.** Thirty RAF hours are about five sorties of four to five hours on task once the transit is paid. Sixteen Norwegian hours are two sorties of about four hours on task; **each Norwegian sortie spends half its hours in transit**. An aircraft orbiting with nothing to do spends hours as fast as one hunting. **A fleet out of hours before night two leaves night two to the ships.**

6. THE AKULA AND OTHER DECOYS

(NR) **Expect the Akula to be offered.** A loud contact running fast towards our ships is a submarine that wants to be held. Hold her if it costs little; report her with a grading; **do not give her the whole effort**. Expect weak contacts that fade: biologics, wrecks, a fishing boat's gear. A contact that is large, slow and stays beside a line is a different matter.

7. ANSON

(NR) ANSON is the one sensor the submersible will not hear coming, if she moves slowly. **She is slow to reposition quietly**: decide early where she goes, and do not move her twice. If she is being followed, she reports it; the follower is then held too.

8. SURFACE SEARCH

(NR) Every P-8 sortie also builds the surface picture. YANTAR is photographed **by day**, from a pass within about **5 nm**, when she is stopped with equipment over the side. A fishing boat without AIS is a fishing boat once it has been looked at.

E

Seabed surveillance and infrastructure liaison

ANNEX E TO OPORD 26-052 · WITH NJHQ, NMIC, GASSCO AND THE SHEFA-2 OPERATOR · REL GBR NOR

1. THE QUESTION

(NR) Which line, and what is being done to it. Our own sensors answer it best, but they cannot be everywhere. **The sources in this annex tell the commander where to look**; only what the task group holds proves it.

2. SEABED ARRAYS

ITEM	INSTRUCTION
Reports	Northwood relays intermittent low-frequency contacts **by area**: “west of Shetland, in the Faroe–Shetland Channel”, “east of Shetland, towards the Brent and Heimdal fields”, “off the Norwegian coast, over the Norwegian Trench”
Weight	Graded. **Usually right about the area, not always.** Never a position
Norwegian arrays	NJHQ relays the position of a noisy submarine in the Norwegian Sea and the northern approach, **about an hour old**

3. THE LINE OPERATORS

(NR) **Gassco** (Langeled, Vesterled) and the **SHEFA-2 operator** listen to their own lines. They report mechanical noise near a point when they hear it, with the point. **A noise near a line is a lead, not a proof**: trawl gear, a dragged anchor and a submersible can sound alike to a fibre on the seabed. The FLAGS operator reports through Gassco for this operation. The operators are told nothing of the task group's movements.

4. AIS AND THE NMIC

(NR) YANTAR keeps her AIS on. The NMIC reports **where she goes and where she slows**. A research ship that slows to a knot over a line and holds there is reported FLASH. **She may be over the line that matters, or over one that does not.**

5. GCHQ

(NR) GCHQ reports traffic from the Russian group when there is any. **A burst transmission after one of our ships has pinged, dipped or closed may mean they know.** A change in their pattern afterwards is the confirmation.

6. NORTHWOOD ANALYSTS

(NR) On request, the analysts summarise the evidence on each line: no indication, weak, moderate or strong; what the submersible has been seen doing; what London could show. **Ask before advising London, not every hour.**

F

Conduct near YANTAR — lasers, jamming and close quarters

ANNEX F TO OPORD 26-052 · EXTRACT OF REFERENCE B · LESSONS OF NOVEMBER 2025

BOTTOM LINE

(NR) **YANTAR is there to provoke as much as to work.** Moscow will call any close approach a dangerous manoeuvre against a civilian research vessel, and any crew injured by her laser will be the only story of the week. **Watch her from a distance; photograph her by day; never crowd her.**

1. DISTANCES OF CONDUCT

DISTANCE	RULE	WHO
15 nm	Expect satellite navigation to be jammed. Navigate on inertial and radar; report the first episode	Ships
4 to 5 nm, below 1,500 m, at night	**Laser hazard.** Stay above 1,500 m or outside 5 nm between dusk and dawn. A crew painted climbs or opens at once	Aircraft
5 nm, by day	Photographic pass, when she is stopped with equipment over the side	Aircraft
1 nm	**Caution.** No ship inside it without the commander's order	Ships
0.5 nm	**Never by our own movement.** A dangerous manoeuvre, whatever the reason	Ships

2. LASERS

(NR) In November 2025 YANTAR aimed lasers at the pilots of an RAF P-8 north of Scotland, as publicly reported. **Expect it at night.** A crew painted reports LANTERN, climbs or opens to 5 nm, and does not come back inside. A crew that stays inside risks an eye injury, and an injured pilot takes the aircraft home.

3. JAMMING

(NR) Satellite navigation was jammed around HMS SOMERSET while she shadowed YANTAR for eight days. Expect positions to jump by several miles within about 15 nm of her. **Inertial navigation holds.** Report STATIC, once per ship.

4. CLOSE QUARTERS

(NR) There is nothing to be learnt about the submersible from inside a mile of YANTAR that cannot be learnt from outside it. If YANTAR closes one of our ships, **hold course and speed and let her pass**: her manoeuvres are hers. Record who closed whom.

5. PHOTOGRAPHS

(NR) **A photograph of YANTAR stopped with a crane over the side and a line in the water**, taken while a submersible is near, is evidence London can show. It needs daylight: roughly **0815Z to 1530Z** on 13 and 14 November.

G

Rules of engagement — aide-memoire

ANNEX G TO OPORD 26-052 · EXTRACT OF REFERENCE B

(NR) This card is an extract and an aid to memory. **It does not replace reference B.** Where the card is silent or differs, the reference governs. British and Norwegian units apply the same card.

TG 327.4 — VALID 121800Z TO 141800Z — CARRY THIS CARD	
SERIAL 1	**Peacetime. Weapons tight in every domain: air, surface, subsurface.** No unit opens fire, illuminates in fire control or launches a weapon short of serial 3.
SERIAL 2	**Surface and subsurface weapons on HOLD**, for the task group and for every aircraft under its control.
SERIAL 3	**Weapon release authority is withheld for every torpedo** (Stingray, Mk 54, Spearfish) against every submarine, **self-defence included**. A submarine is hunted to be held, never attacked. Self-defence against a unit that fires on us, by any other means, is never denied.
SERIAL 4	**Active sonar is permitted.** It is not a hostile act, by us or by them. It tells the other side it is watched.
SERIAL 5	**No ship closes YANTAR within 0.5 nm by her own movement**; none inside 1 nm without the commander's order.
SERIAL 6	**No Russian ship or submarine is stopped, boarded, fired across, obstructed or forced to the surface.**
SERIAL 7	A laser, jamming, a close pass, a submarine following ours: **none of these is a hostile act.** They are reported, not answered.
SERIAL 8	**Fishing boats and offshore vessels** are hailed if needed. No warning shot, no force.

A NOTE ON POSTURE

(NR) Moscow's purpose near YANTAR is to make a British or Norwegian commander either back off or do something that the television can use. **A laser is an argument, not an attack.** A close pass by one of our ships, however well meant, becomes an incident in Moscow's version within the hour; a torpedo in the water, for any reason, ends the operation, hands Moscow the story, and puts two governments in the dock instead of one.

REPORTING

(NR) Every laser, jamming episode, close pass and submarine following ours is reported with time, position and the distances involved. **Record who closed whom.** Any injury to any person is reported immediately, in clear.

ANNEX G TO OPORD 26-052 — PAGE G-1 OF G-1

H

Legal — law of the sea, cables and pipelines

ANNEX H TO OPORD 26-052 · WITH THE LEGAL ADVISERS, UKMCC AND NJHQ · EXTRACT OF REFERENCE D

1. WHERE THE RUSSIANS ARE

(NR) All three lines lie in exclusive economic zones (British, Faroese and Norwegian), **beyond any territorial sea**. There every state enjoys freedom of navigation and of laying cables and pipelines (UNCLOS arts 58, 79 and 87). **Being there is lawful**, however unwelcome. We may watch, follow, photograph and record; we may not order them away.

2. WHO THEY ARE

(NR) The submarines are warships; YANTAR is a state ship on non-commercial service, whatever her research flag. **All enjoy complete immunity** (arts 95 and 96): no stopping, no boarding, no inspection, no arrest. Any complaint about their conduct is made by London or Oslo to Moscow.

3. THE LINES

(NR) Wilful damage to a submarine cable or pipeline is an offence that states must punish (art. 113). **A submarine beside a line has committed nothing until she damages it**, and a submerged warship retains her immunity. Our answer is to be there, to hold her, and to make the record public; not to attack her.

4. RESEARCH AND SURVEY

(NR) Marine scientific research in an exclusive economic zone needs the coastal state's consent (art. 246). Neither London, Oslo nor Tórshavn has been asked. Moscow will call a survey of our lines “hydrography” and lawful. **That argument is for governments; the evidence of what was done is ours to collect.**

5. THE TERRITORIAL SEA

(NR) A submarine in the territorial sea of Shetland, Orkney or Norway must navigate on the surface and show her flag (art. 20). A submerged contact **inside the 12 nm limit** is reported FLASH; this order authorises no action against it.

6. WHOSE WATER

LINE	ZONE	LEAD NATION FOR WHAT IS SAID IN PUBLIC
SHEFA-2	British and Faroese	London, with Tórshavn and Copenhagen informed
FLAGS / Vesterled	British, Norwegian towards Heimdal	London, with Oslo
Langeled	Norwegian	**Oslo**, with London

7. EVIDENCE

(NR) Sonar recordings, contact logs, photographs and bridge logs are kept unedited, time-stamped and with their sources. **What London and Oslo can say in public depends on what the task group can produce.** Anything found on the seabed is reported and left where it is, for the governments to decide.

J

Communications and reporting

ANNEX J TO OPORD 26-052 · VALID 121800Z TO 141800Z

1. NETS

NET	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	USERS
Command	Secure satellite	HF secure	CTG 327.4, UKMCC operations centre, NJHQ. Secure only
Task group	Link 16 / voice	276.450 UHF	ST ALBANS, THOR HEYERDAHL, TIDESPRING, MERLIN 21
Submarine	Broadcast	by schedule	ANSON, through CTF 311. **Allow for the delay**
Maritime air	Link 16	252.900 UHF	HUNTER, NORNE, ST ALBANS
Bridge to bridge	VHF 16	VHF 06	Hailing, YANTAR, fishermen. **Guarded and recorded throughout**

2. CODEWORDS

CODEWORD	MEANING
FINWHALE	Submarine contact. DATUM follows, with classification and grading
LONGSHIP	Large, slow submarine contact: possible carrier. Followed by the nearest line point
SELKIE	Small, very quiet contact away from a larger one: possible submersible
HAAF	Contact held beside a line. Followed by the line and point
SLACKWATER	Contact lost. Last datum follows
SHADOWED	One of our units believes she is being followed
CRANE	YANTAR stopped, equipment over the side. Photographs follow
LANTERN	Aircraft painted by a laser. Followed by the callsign and the action taken
STATIC	Satellite navigation jammed. Followed by the unit and the distance from YANTAR
ELBOW	One of our ships inside 1 nm of YANTAR, or YANTAR closing one of ours
LINESMAN	Operator report of noise or a fault on a line. Followed by the line and the operator's words
NOR'WESTER	Met Office gale warning received. Followed by the forecast onset
HOMEWARD	Russian units heading north. Followed by LINE FLUGGA crossing times
GRANITE	One of our units has been fired upon. Annex G serial 3 applies

3. LONDON'S FIRST ASSESSMENT

(NR) **At 130600Z the Cabinet Office takes its first assessment from the task group's picture**: which Russian submarines are held, and since when. Nothing is sent for it; **it is read from what we hold**. An Akula alone will be read as an Akula alone: London will ask whether she is the operation or the distraction.

4. ADVICE TO GO PUBLIC

STEP	RULE
WHO	**The Secretary of State decides, on the advice of CTG 327.4.** Oslo is consulted through NJHQ before London speaks
WHEN	When the commander judges that the evidence would stand in public. London will remind the commander during the second night and again towards the end if no advice has come
HOW	Advice given, then confirmed, with the evidence attached. **Once.** It cannot be recalled
EFFECT	A statement tells the Russians they are seen. **Expect them to leave.** Without proof, it costs London more than silence; with it, it is the purpose of the operation

5. OTHER REPORTS

(NR) SITREP to UKMCC every four hours, info NJHQ. FLASH for FINWHALE, LONGSHIP, SELKIE, HAAF, CRANE, LANTERN, ELBOW and GRANITE, and for any casualty. London hears of every laser and every close pass from Northwood **before** it hears of it from TASS.

6. EMISSION CONTROL, AUTHENTICATION AND THE RECORD

(NR) Challenge before any codeword is accepted on a non-secure net. Sonar recordings, contact logs, MERLIN 21's and the P-8s' imagery, bridge video and channel 16 are recorded from the first hour. **Nothing is edited.** No fire-control radar on any Russian unit; nothing that Moscow can present as targeting.

K

Public affairs and political coordination

ANNEX K TO OPORD 26-052 · WITH PJHQ, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND NJHQ

1. THE CHAIN

(NR) CTG 327.4 → UKMCC → PJHQ → the Secretary of State for Defence and Downing Street, with the Foreign Office informed; and CTG 327.4 → NJHQ → the Norwegian Ministry of Defence. London and Oslo speak; the task group does not. **What the commander does at sea moves opinion far more than anything said ashore.**

2. WHAT THE GOVERNMENTS ARE WATCHING

(NR) They weigh three things: **standing abroad**, **opinion at home** and **the confidence between London and Oslo**. They will not give the commander figures. Downing Street will say when one of them is falling dangerously, and it will say so twice. **A third time, there is no longer a government behind the operation**, and it ends.

3. WHO WILL ASK

(NR) Throughout the period: the BBC and *The Times*, the Norwegian Ministry of Defence and Equinor on Langeled, Moscow and TASS on YANTAR, NATO MARCOM for the picture, the House of Commons, the Shetland Islands Council in Lerwick, the Faroese government in Tórshavn, the markets on gas prices, and the Kremlin. **None of them needs an answer from the task group.** Each will be answered by the governments on what the task group is doing at that moment: whether Russian submarines are held, whether Langeled is watched, whether YANTAR has been handled calmly, and what evidence exists.

4. GOING PUBLIC

(NR) In April the Defence Secretary said “we see your activity over our cables and our pipelines” and could show it. **Saying it again with proof** serves all three. **Saying it without proof** invites Moscow to mock “British submarine phantoms” and leaves Oslo unconsulted. **Not saying it at all** leaves London silent while the press asks. The commander's advice, Annex J paragraph 4, is the hinge.

5. OSLO

(NR) Norway's first interest is Langeled, and its confidence in this agreement is measured by whether the line was watched. **A gap of a few hours over Langeled is noticed in Oslo**, and will be raised with London.

6. LINES TO TAKE

- The United Kingdom and Norway respect the freedom of navigation of every state, including Russia's, and expect the same respect for their cables and pipelines.
- British and Norwegian forces are watching Russian activity in the North Sea closely and professionally, together.
- We keep a safe distance from all vessels, and expect the same of them.
- No British or Norwegian weapon has been fired, and none will be fired first.

L

Meteorological and oceanographic forecast

ANNEX L TO OPORD 26-052 · ORIGINATOR MET OFFICE / UKMCC METOC · ISSUED 121100ZNOV26

BOTTOM LINE

(NR) A workable first night and a **gale** to come. **A north-westerly severe gale 9 is expected over Fair Isle, Faeroes and Viking on 13–14 November**, setting in during the afternoon of the 13th and at its height for eight to twelve hours, through most of the second night. The models disagree on the onset by several hours. **The Met Office will issue a warning with a forecast onset during the evening of 12 November**; the forecast time is a forecast, with its own error.

1. AREA FORECAST — FAIR ISLE, FAEROES, VIKING

STAGE	DURATION	WIND	SEA STATE	HELICOPTER	SONAR
Now	until onset	W 4–5	4–5 (moderate to rough)	Normal	Normal
Rising	about 1.5 h	NW 7, rising	6 (very rough)	**Recover MERLIN 21**	Degrading
Height	8 to 12 h	NW severe gale 9	7 (high)	**MERLIN 21 stays on deck**	Sonobuoys and hull sonars degraded; towed arrays work at low speed
Easing	about 2 h	NW 7	6 (very rough)	With care	Recovering
After	to end	NW 5, decreasing	5 (rough)	Normal	Normal

Air 7°C, colder in the gale. Visibility moderate in showers. Confidence in the sequence: **high**. Confidence in the onset time: **low** until the warning. The P-8 fly through it.

2. ASTRONOMICAL AND OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA — 60°30'N 000°30'E

ITEM	12 NOV	13 NOV	14 NOV
Nautical twilight begins	—	0612Z	0614Z
Sunrise	—	0746Z	0748Z
Sunset	1540Z	1538Z	1536Z
Nautical twilight ends	1713Z	1712Z	—
Moonset	1548Z	1702Z	1831Z
Moon	New on 9 November; thin waxing crescent, 10 to 23 % lit, setting in the early evening. **Two dark nights of about sixteen hours**		
Daylight for photographs	Roughly 0815Z to 1530Z on 13 and 14 November		
Sea temperature	9°C at the surface; colder deep water below 500 m in the Faroe–Shetland Channel; mixed layer deepening in the gale		
Depths	Over 1,000 m in the Faroe–Shetland Channel; 100–200 m on the East Shetland shelf; about 300 m in the Norwegian Trench		

3. AERODROME FORECASTS

EGQS 121100Z 1212/1312 26012KT 9999 SCT025 BKN040
ENEV 121100Z 1212/1312 24010KT 9999 FEW020 BKN035
Extended forecasts withheld pending the gale warning.

ANNEX L TO OPORD 26-052 — PAGE L-1 OF L-1

M

References, charts and abbreviations

ANNEX M TO OPORD 26-052

1. CHARTS AND REFERENCE POINTS

ITEM	DETAIL
Charts	BA 2182C (North Sea, northern sheet) and the small-scale charts of the Faroe–Shetland Channel and the Norwegian Sea
Datum	WGS 84. Degrees and decimal minutes unless otherwise stated
Reference points on the plot	SHEFA-2 1, 2 and 3 · FLAGS 1, 2 and 3 · LANGELED 1, 2 and 3 (all highlighted) · FAROE-SHETLAND CHANNEL · YANTAR LAST POSITION

2. ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS ORDER

AIS Automatic identification system
ASW Anti-submarine warfare
CTF / CTG Commander task force / group
DP Decision point
DTG Date-time group
EEZ Exclusive economic zone
FSC Faroe–Shetland Channel
GCHQ Government Communications Headquarters
GNSS Satellite navigation
GUGI Main Directorate of Deep-Sea Research (Russia)
JRCC Joint rescue coordination centre
MARCOM NATO Allied Maritime Command
METOC Meteorology and oceanography
NAI Named area of interest
NJHQ Norwegian Joint Headquarters
NMIC National Maritime Information Centre
PIR Priority intelligence requirement
PJHQ Permanent Joint Headquarters
RAS Replenishment at sea
SSN Nuclear-powered attack submarine
UKMCC UK Maritime Component Commander
UNCLOS UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
VUL Vulnerability period

3. OVERLAYS

(NR) Appendix 1 to Annex B (collection) and Appendix 1 to Annex C (operations) are bound after their annexes. The coastline is drawn for orientation only; lay each on the chart and register on its marks. The operations overlay carries an inset of the distances of conduct around YANTAR at a larger scale. Annex I is not used.

PROVENANCE

A fictional document for the Command: Modern Operations scenario **We See You, 2026 — Deep Water**, fourth scenario of the *Europe 2026* campaign, by totobimbo. It is written from inside a headquarters at 121200Z and states what a staff believed at that hour, which is not the same as what is true.

All personal names, callsigns, frequencies, codewords, serials, events, quotations other than the Defence Secretary's words of April 2026, and intelligence products are invented, as is any Russian mission. Military units, bases and aircraft types, YANTAR and the GUGI, the SHEFA-2 cable, the FLAGS, Vesterled and Langeled lines, Gassco and the UK–Norway agreement on joint naval patrols are real; their presence and actions on this date are a projection. YANTAR's conduct in November 2025, the operation of March and April 2026 and its disclosure on 9 April, and the Svalbard operation disclosed on 10 September are matters of public reporting. No part of this document reflects any actual order or assessment of any armed force.

ANNEX M TO OPORD 26-052 — PAGE M-1 OF M-1 — END OF ORDER