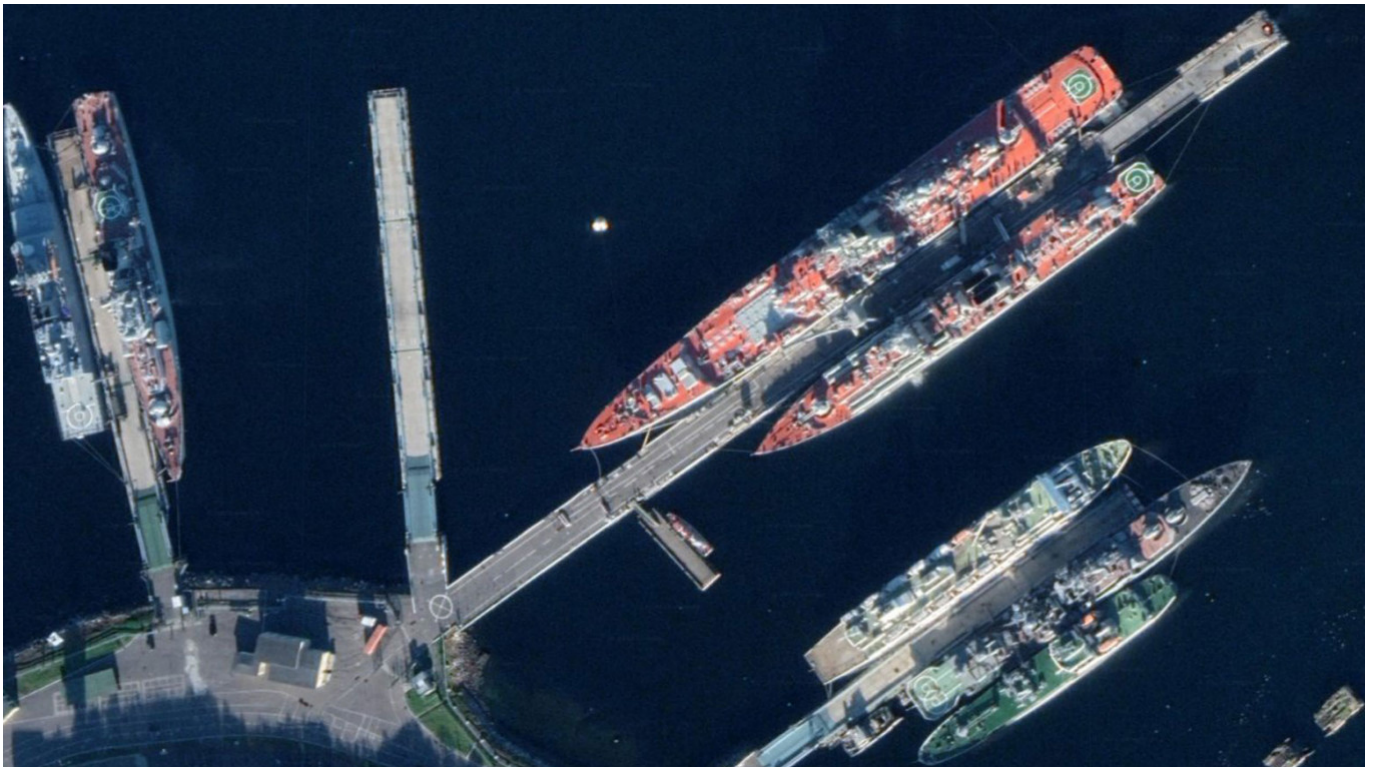


Google Denies Removing Blurring For Russia's Military Sites

April 18, 2022



Russian Navy heavy nuclear-powered missile cruiser "Peter the Great." [defence-ua](#)

This story was corrected at 8:39 a.m. on Tuesday to include a denial by Google Maps, and an update on images circulating online.

Google Maps denied [reports](#) Monday that it had made Russia's strategic facilities visible to users, allegedly revealing details of the country's military infrastructure.

"We haven't made any blurring changes to our satellite imagery in Russia," Google spokesperson Genevieve Park said in an email [quoted](#) by U.S. media site The Verge.

Images circulating online Monday of nuclear weapons stores, submarines, and military bases in Russia were likely genuine, but visible on Google Maps long before the conflict in Ukraine.

The reports of Google removing the blurring were widely shared on social media.

"Now everyone can see [Russian military infrastructure] with a resolution of about 0.5 meters per pixel," [tweeted](#) an account linked to the Ukrainian armed forces.

The incident came amid strained relations between Russia and U.S. tech giant Google.

Google banned advertisements for Russian users following the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine, and Russian officials have accused Google-owned YouTube of stirring an "[information war](#)" after the video-hosting platform blocked Russian state media.

Satellite images of military facilities are sometimes blurred by Google Maps, or displayed in lower quality, to protect their classified status.

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