

U.S. warship visit to Sevastapol protested

by UPI

SEVASTAPOL, Ukraine -- Sevastapol city officials say about 500 people turned out to protest the port call by a U.S. Navy warship in the Ukrainian city.

The frigate USS Klakring has been in the Black Sea since last week and will remain in Sevastapol until the weekend when it sails for the Georgian port of Batumi.

The Klakring's presence irked some residents of the city, which is host to a major Russian naval base, even though Ukraine has sought NATO membership, Russia's RIA Novosti news agency said. Protests against visits by NATO warships are common in Sevastopol.

"We welcome all foreigners who come here as tourists, but we will not tolerate the U.S. military in our city," said city council member Andrei Merkulov, one of the organizers of the rally.

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