

FACTSHEET – DYNAMIC MESSENGER 23

Exercise Dynamic Messenger 2023 (DYMS23)

An Operational Experimentation (OPEX) NATO Exercise designed to allow large scale OPEX where NATO Operational Communities promotes the operational integration of Maritime Unmanned Systems (MUS) into NATO Operations. The 2023 edition is to be conducted in the North Atlantic Portuguese Exercise Areas, from 18th to the 29th of September 2023.

Participating nations

16 NATO and 1 Partner Nations are participating in Dynamic Messenger: Portugal (host nation), Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, United Kingdom and United States.

Nations sending observers

Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

Personnel involved

Approximately 1100 civilian and military personnel are involved in the exercise ashore. In addition, around 1000 personnel are participating as part of the crews on the ships.

Participating commands and multinational military organizations include:

- NATO Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM)
- NATO Allied Command Transformation (ACT), Allied Command Transformation (ACT) will support DYMS23 with the Operational Experimentation Emerging Disruptive Technologies Task Force (OPEX EDT TF), support to the Centre for Maritime Research Experimentation (CMRE) and work focused on Multi-Domain Operations.
- Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 2 (SNMCMG2)
- Portuguese Navy
- Maritime Unmanned Systems Innovation and Coordination Cell (MUSIC², NATO HQ)
- Centre for Maritime Research & Experimentation (NATO CMRE)
- Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence (CJOS COE)
- Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters Centre of Excellence (CSW COE)
- Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (MARSEC COE)

- Maritime GEOMETOC Centre of Excellence (MGEOMETOC COE),
- Naval Mine Warfare Centre of Excellence (NMW COE)
- NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre (NMIOTC)
- Joint Analysis & Lessons Learned Centre (JALLC)
- NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA)
- Joint Force Training Centre (JFTC)

Assets involved in DYNAMIC MESSENGER 23

In total, approximately 34 systems:

- 3 Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUVs)
- 2 Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs)
- 1 Autonomous Surface Vehicle (ASVs)
- 8 Unmanned Surface Vehicles (USVs)
- 13 Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs)
- 7 other systems

Warships involved include:

- ITS STROMBOLI (AOR SNMCMG2 Flagship), Italy
- ITS CARABINIERI (FFG), Italy
- ESPS FUROR (OPV), Spain
- FS PLUTON (AUX), France
- ITS GAETA (MCMV), Italy
- ESPS TAMBRE (MCMV), Spain
- NRP FRANCISCO DE ALMEIDA (FFGH), Portugal
 - PRT N Marines, Portugal
- NRP DOM CARLOS I (AGS), Portugal
- NRP ANDROMEDA (AGSC), Portugal
- NRP SINES (OPV), Portugal
- NRP SETUBAL (OPV), Portugal
- NRP ORION (FPB), Portugal
- NRP HIDRA (FPB), Portugal

Live Operations will take place in the areas of Troia, Sado River and offshore from the Troia Peninsula including Sesimbra.

The following warfare areas will execute Operational Experimentation (OPEX) to achieve specific objectives with the use and integration of MUS:

1. **Protection of Critical Undersea Infrastructure (CUI) with MUS.** At the Vilnius summit in July 2023, the North Atlantic Council approved the creation of NATO's Maritime Centre for the Security of Critical Undersea Infrastructure (NMCSCUI) within MARCOM. One of the recommendations contained in the decision was to consider the use of CT&E to deliver enhancements. Given not only its timing, but its focus on Maritime Unmanned Systems, DYMS 23 is a natural launch pad for enhancing the protection of CUI.
2. **Naval Mine Warfare (NMW).** Dynamic Messenger will enable the Mine Warfare operations to test and validate new experiment with the use of unmanned systems. These systems will support the development of Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) in NMW operations. Interoperability and tactical co-operation between legacy minehunters and NMW MUS, promoting whenever possible, Crewed-Uncrewed Teaming will be of higher importance to promote during DYMS23.
3. **Maritime Security Operations (MSO).** The use of MUS in MSO during Dynamic Messenger will be used as discovery experiment. Information collected is to support the eventual development of a Concept and possible Doctrine improvements while demonstrating the MUS efficiency in support of MSO task.
4. **Force Protection (FP).** Dynamic Messenger will exercise maritime forces capabilities to face up contemporary asymmetric threats from land, sea and air with, FP-wise, an emphasis on convoy escort operations, protection of critical infrastructure (CI) ashore and counter-unmanned aerial systems (C-UAS).
5. **Underwater Warfare (UW).** A number of Operational Experiments will take place to meet the exercise UW objectives, correlating these efforts with those conducted in the preceding exercise (REPMUS).
6. **Amphibious Operations (AMPHIB).** Purpose throughout the exercise is to conduct Light and Fast Amphibious Operations from ship to shore, supported by Maritime Unmanned Systems/Emerging Disruptive Technologies (MUS/EDT). The use of Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) support operations during amphibious planning is another objective during the exercise.
7. **Medical and Logistics (MED + LOG).** Purpose of Medical Operations is to conduct "Proof of Concept" of Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) and assess shipment of medical logistics (MEDLOG) from ship to shore, shore to ship utilizing Maritime Unmanned Systems.

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