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NATO MARCOM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – JULY 2018

Maritime Security Operations

NATO MARCOM continues its naval activity in the North Atlantic Region, with Standing Naval Maritime Forces operating in the Baltic Sea, North Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea. For Operation Sea Guardian (OSG), NATO's Maritime Security Operation in the Mediterranean, 67 warships from different NATO nations have provided support. For air support, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Turkey, France and the USA have provided Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) flights over OSG patrol areas during the month of July, in addition to flights provided by NATO Airborne Early Warning Aircraft. Furthermore, 4 NATO submarines from Turkey, Portugal and Greece have provided support under national or NATO operational command. These activities have helped gain awareness and control of the maritime domain.

The third OSG focused operation (FOCOPS) of CY 2018 (18-3) concluded on 17 July in the Eastern Mediterranean led by the Turkish Captain Emre Sezenler in TCG Salihreis, along with the Italian frigate ITS Espero and Greek frigate HS Psara, supported by the Turkish submarine TCG Doganay. In total, 192 Vessels were hailed and queried.

Standing Naval Maritime Groups

Standing Maritime Naval Group 1 (SNMG-1) changed flagship from warship Danish HDMS Niels Juel to HDMS Esbern Snare. The remainder of SNMG-1 is comprised of the Canadian frigate HCMS St John's and the Turkish TCG Gediz. SNMG-1 participated in Exercise DYNAMIC MONGOOSE and has also carried out internal training activities and Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA) tasks in the Baltic and the North Seas, visiting Frederikshaven port.

Standing Maritime Naval Group 2 – Task Unit 1 (SNMG-2 TU01) continues its deployment in the Aegean Sea, supporting the efforts of the EU, Greece and Turkey to prevent illegal migrant trafficking. The SNMG-2 Commander led this activity in July onboard the German frigate FGS Bayern with the Hellenic warships HS Grigoropoulos, HS Armatolos and HS Kalypso, now relieved by HS Kasos, HS Mikonios, and HS Polemistis; the Turkish warship TCG Kusadasi, now relieved by TCG Karabiga; and the Albanese warship ALS Butrinti, now relieved by ALS Lissus. This month they detected four small boats with immigrants coming from Turkey, which were reported to local authorities.

Standing Maritime Naval Group 2 - Task Unit 2 (SNMG-2 TU02), formed by the Dutch HNLMS De Ruyter, Canadian HMCS Ville de Quebec, Turkish TCG Fatih and Romanian R. Ferdinand, carried out training activities and MSA tasks in the Mediterranean, Black Sea, and Atlantic Ocean, including participation in the Bulgarian Exercise BREEZE 18. SNMG2 TU 02 Black Sea deployers made a port visit to Odessa, Ukraine and completed a passing exercise (PASSEX) with the Ukrainian Navy.

Standing NATO Mine Counter Measures Group number 1 (SNMCMG-1), led by the Belgian warship BNS Godetia and formed by the British HMS Ramsey, Lithuanian LNS Kursis, Latvian LVNS Rusins and Norwegian HNOMS Maaloev, completed a port visit to Frederikshavn, Denmark and Force Integration Training.

Standing NATO Mine Counter Measures Group number 2 (SNMCMG-2), led by the German warship FGS Rhein and formed by Turkish TCG Anamur and Romanian ROUS Lupu Dinescu, completed Force Integration Training and a Black Sea deployment with participation in Exercise BREEZE 18, a PASSEX with the Ukrainian Navy, and port visits to Souda Bay, Greece and Odessa, Ukraine.

Additional MARCOM Activities

The NATO MARCOM-led Exercise Dynamic Mongoose, an advanced antisubmarine warfare exercise, started on the 24th of June in the Norwegian Sea and ended on the 5th July, with the participation of two Norwegian submarines, the warships of SNMG1, two Polish and two Dutch warships, and three MPAs from the USA, Norway and Germany.

Additionally, a delegation from NATO MARCOM met with leadership from the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) on 18 July in order to discuss Malta's potential support of OSG.

NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) Updates

The NSC has posted a request for all ships to report incidents of GPS jamming or spoofing at sea in order to maintain overall awareness of issues affecting safety and security of navigation. The format for reporting is available on the NSC website.

Merchant ships are encouraged to report all suspicious activities in the Mediterranean Sea and broader North Atlantic Region to the NATO Shipping Centre.



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