



## HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED MARITIME COMMAND

Atlantic Building, Northwood Headquarters, Sandy Lane  
Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 3HP  
United Kingdom



**Our Ref:**

**Tel:** +44 (0)1923 956577

**Date:** 12 September 2018

**NCN:** 57+ 56577

**Email:** f.gallego-aranda@mc.nato.int

IAW distribution

### MONTHLY NEWSLETTER NATO MARCOM AUGUST 2018.

NATO MARCOM continues its naval activity in the North Atlantic Region with Standing Naval Forces operating in the Baltic Sea, North Sea, Mediterranean and Black Sea. Operation Sea Guardian (OSG), the NATO Maritime Security Operation in the Mediterranean, aimed at establishing Maritime Situational Awareness and to counter terrorism has had 242 warships from different NATO nations providing support. For air support to OSG, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Turkey, France, and USA have provided 68 Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) flights over the operations areas during the month of August, in addition to flights provided by NATO Airborne Early Warning Aircraft and helicopters. Furthermore, NATO submarines have provided support under national or NATO operational command. These activities have helped gain awareness and control of the maritime domain. A total of 654 merchant vessels have been hailed during the period.

Commencing in August an unusually high deployment of Russian warships took place in the Eastern Mediterranean. This is assessed both to be in support of Russian operations in Syria as well as for training and exercise purposes.

Standing Naval Maritime Group 2 (SNMG-2) and its tactical unit number 2 (TU 02), formed by the Dutch HNLMS De Ruyter (flagship), the Canadian HMCS Ville de Quebec, and the Spanish ESPS Cristobal Colon, were reassembled in Catania (Eastern Med) from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of August and are now patrolling the Eastern Mediterranean along with other NATO units under national command. Their tasks includes monitoring the Russian deployments and operations.

Primary NATO Naval training activities in August saw SNMG-1 taking part in exercise SQUADDEX 18 in the North Sea. SNMG-1 also carried out internal training activities and Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA) tasks in the Baltic and the North Sea, visiting the ports of Gdynia and Frederikshavn.

SNMG-2 TU 01 continues its deployment in the Aegean Sea, supporting the efforts of EU, Greece, and Turkey to control migration. The SNMG-2 TU 01 Commander leads his units from the German frigate FGS Bayern (relieved by FGS Lubeck) with support from the Hellenic warships HS Polesmistis, HS Smitzopulus, HS Kalysto and HS Kasos, and the Turkish warships TCG Karabiga and TCG Kumkale. The Albanian warship ALS Lissus also participated in the Aegean. In August SNMG-1 TU 01 patrolled the areas assigned and sighted 28 small boats with

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

immigrants coming from Turkey. The movements of these small boats are reported to local authorities for further actions.

Standing Naval Mine Counter Measures Group 1 (SNMCMG-1), led by the Belgian warship BNS Godetia and consisting of the Norwegian HNOMS Maaloey, Lithuanian LNS Kursis, Latvian LVNS Ruisis, and the British HMS Ramsey, executed mine clearance operations in shallow waters in Norway and carried out training activities in the Norwegian leads and the North Sea. Also in the period SNMCMG-1 visited Bodoe, Trondheim, Bergen and Esbjerg.

NATO MARCOM overall exercise and training activities during August included Dynamic Move, a Mine Counter Measure (MCM) exercise that started on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August in La Spezia and is still ongoing. The exercise includes Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS) and navigational warning procedures (operations advising shipping on how to proceed in a mine warfare environment and how to avoid interference with naval operations at sea).

**NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) Updates**

The NSC has posted a request for all ships to report incidents of GPS jamming or interference at sea in order to maintain overall awareness of issues affecting safety and security of navigation. Several reports are being reported and MARCOM is analysing the situation.

A new threat assessment for shipping operating in the Mediterranean has been produced and released to the Shipping Industry representatives by the NSC.

Merchant ships are encouraged to report all suspicious activity in the Mediterranean Sea and broader North Atlantic Region to the NSC.



Ben Lofstad,  
Commander, NOR N  
NATO Shipping Centre Branch Head