



## HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED MARITIME COMMAND

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### MONTHLY NEWSLETTER NATO MARCOM JUNE 2018.

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. Regarding Maritime Security in the Mediterranean, 98 warships from different NATO nations have provided associated support to Operation Sea Guardian (OSG) and 6 warships have provided direct support. In addition, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Turkey, France, and USA have provided 10 Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) flights in direct support and 53 in associated support of OSG patrol areas during June. Furthermore, 5 NATO submarines from Turkey, Canada, Greece and France have provided support under national or NATO operational command. These activities have helped gain awareness and control of the maritime domain. Good cooperation from the Merchant Vessels (MV) sailing through this area has been noted. As a reminder, any information provided by MVs to the NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) with regard to suspicious activities will contribute to maritime security and be beneficial for all users of the maritime domain. The third OSG focused operations (FOCOPS) in 2018 (18-3) started on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June in the Eastern Mediterranean led by a Turkish Captain, in TCG Sallireis, along with the Italian frigate ITS Espero and Greek frigate HS Psara, supported by the Turkish submarine TCG Doganay. 300 Vessels were hailed and enquired.

Cooperation between NATO MARCOM and EUNAVFOR Sophia continues. Working together has improved both task force's capabilities and, as a result, maritime security in the Mediterranean. In addition, cooperation between NATO and its partners to support OSG in the Mediterranean is improving and increasing. A meeting with Malta maritime authorities has been scheduled for July.

Standing Maritime Naval Group number 2 (SNMG-2) 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 leads this activity onboard the German frigate FGS Bayern with the Hellenic warships HS Ristos and HS Polesmistis—which were relieved by HS Grigoropoulos and HS Armatolos the HS Kalypso—the Turkish warship TCG Karaburun, and the Albanese warship ALS Butrinti. This month they have patrolled the areas assigned and have intercepted 51 small boats with immigrants coming from Turkey, which were reported to local authorities.

Naval training activities this month: SNMG-1, formed by the Danish warship HDMS Niels Juel (flagship), the Canadian frigate HCMS St John's, the Spanish ESPS Alvaro de Bazan, and the

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Turkish TCG Gediz, have taken part in the exercise BALTOPS led by the USA in the Baltic Sea and Dynamic Mongoose in the North Sea. SNMG-1 has also carried out internal training activities and Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA) tasks in the Baltic and the North Seas, visiting Klaipeda, Kiel, and Harstadt ports.

SNMG-2 tactical unit number 2 (TU 02), formed by the British HMS Duncan, carried out training activities and MSA tasks in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, including participation in the Portuguese SWORDFISH 18 exercise that took place off Portuguese coast. HMS Duncan visited Mersin and Lisbon.

The Standing NATO Mine Counter Mines Group number 1 (SNMCMG-1), led by the Dutch warship HNLMS Mercur and formed by the British HMS Ramsey, German FGS Bad Bevensen, Dutch HNLMS Urk, and Norwegian HNOMS Otra, practiced mine clearance in shallow waters and carried out several training activities that included the major exercise Dynamic Move on 19-29 March. During these deployments, SNMCMG-1 warships have visited Kiel, Amsterdam, Zeebrugg, and Antwerp ports.

NATO MARCOM training activities carried out this month included Dynamic Mongoose, an advanced antisubmarine warfare exercise that started on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June in the Norwegian Sea, with the participation of 2 Norwegian submarines, the warships of SNMG1, 2 Polish and 2 Dutch warships, and three MPAs from USA, Norway, and Germany.

NATO MARCOM also hosted the annual MARCOM Maritime Security Symposium (MMSS) with representatives from the Shipping Industry in Northwood on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. Several interesting and useful presentations were shown, followed by enriching discussions. This second annual MMSS was focused on Cyber Security for Shipping and Maritime Security in the Mediterranean. These two topics were also discussed during a High Level Shipping Engagement (HLSE) meeting hosted by the MARCOM Commander in May with leaders from the Shipping Industry.

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