

# News Release



**Allied Maritime  
Command Headquarters  
Northwood**



## **EXERCISE BOLD MONARCH 2011**

### **RUSSIAN SUBMARINE PARTICIPATES IN NATO SUBMARINE RESCUE EXERCISE FOR FIRST TIME**

ITS Anteo, at sea (June 2, 2011) – For the first time, a Russian submarine mated with a NATO submarine rescue system, specifically with the Italian submarine rescue bell, demonstrating they could work together and reach the milestone of international cooperation and interoperability during exercise Bold Monarch 2011.

“The aim of this exercise is for all of us to work together, but for me as a pilot, this is the same as working with any other submarine,” said Italian Navy Chief Petty Officer 2 Angelo Nitti, who piloted the Atmospheric Diving System (ADS) down to the Russian submarine SSK Alrosa. An ADS is a hard suit that divers can wear and employ to great depths to assist disabled submarines or do other underwater work. He attached the line which allowed ITS Anteo’s (A 5309) submarine rescue bell to winch down and land perfectly centre on Alrosa’s hatch. Nitti is one of about 10 ADS pilots in the Italian Navy, and has been working with the heavy (300 kilogram) system since 2005. “For me as a diver, piloting the ADS is like driving a Ferrari.”

Bold Monarch 2011 is a NATO exercise supported by both the Submarine Escape and Rescue Working Group (SMERWG) and the International Submarine Escape and Rescue Liaison Office (ISMERLO). Submarine escape and rescue is an international humanitarian aid effort that requires cooperation across national and alliance boundaries. ISMERLO was established 7 years ago, and is the international coordinating hub for global submarine rescue procedure, systems, equipment and support ships. It also ensures at least one of the world’s rescue systems is available to be deployed immediately should an emergency occur.

“When you go out to rescue someone, you take risks. We train in exercises such as Bold Monarch 2011 to reduce these risks,” said the Commanding Officer of the Italian ship Anteo, Commander Diego Priami, who was exchanged for the Alrosa’s sonar officer during a

passenger transfer at a depth of 60 meters yesterday. "I was glad to have had this opportunity to work with the Alrosa."

Bill Orr, coordinator of ISMERLO, said "The cooperation shown between Italy and Russia, and all the participants and observers of the exercise, demonstrates the growing importance of international cooperation, and that there is a greater chance of ensuring a successful rescue if a submarine casualty occurs."

This mating was a highlight of the exercise, even for the military observers.

"I think this is an important exercise. All these nations come together to explore their limits and see what they can do together," said Israeli Navy Cmdr. Roy Perry, Commanding Officer of the submarine INS Tekuma, who rode as a guest observer in the Italian McCann Bell to experience the submarine rescue system and witness the historic mating between the Russian and NATO systems. "As a submariner, we always see the ship from the inside. This is a great opportunity to see it from the outside."

More than 40 countries operate more than 440 submarines world-wide, making the confirmation of rescue abilities between nations vital. These exercises foster safety and the ability to work together on a survival level, and also promote understanding and a commitment to stability through regional cooperation. **ENDS**

Follow Exercise Bold Monarch 2011 on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bold-Monarch-2011> and at the NATO website: [www.manw.nato.int](http://www.manw.nato.int)

### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

Opportunities are available for international media to visit the Bold Monarch Exercise and witness a submarine rescue and associated hyperbaric medical care and diving support on 7 June 2011 MEDIA DAY at sea off the Spanish coast.

For further enquiries, please contact Lt Cdr Andrew Mills and Lt Cdr Heather Lane at '[paobmh11@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paobmh11@yahoo.co.uk)' or call 0044 7585 795634.