EXERCISE NOBLE MARINER 2012 MEDIA KIT

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EXERCISE NOBLE MARINER 2012 MEDIA KIT

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1. Exercise Overview

From 24 September to 7 October 2012, NATO will conduct a major naval exercise code-named Noble Mariner 12 (NOMR12) in the Mediterranean Sea.

NOMR12 plays an important part in the certification process of the NATO Response Force (NRF). This year, the objective is to certify the capacity of France to lead the maritime component of NRF.

Task Force (TF) 445 and all its units will deploy to the exercise zone and evolve in a crisis scenario involving a multi-threat environment. NOMR12 will allow to train the staff of participating units in all types of warfare, highlighting the expeditionary nature of NRF deployments.

Allied Maritime Command Northwood will oversee both the preparation and conduct of this exercise.

Rear Admiral Philippe Coindreau (French Navy), **FRMARFOR** Commander, will assume command of TF 445.

The successful completion of this exercise will allow FRMARFOR to assume command of the maritime component of the NRF for the whole of 2013.

Timeline:

- **24 Sept**: All naval units arrive in Toulon, France. Commanders Conference onboard FS Tonerre.
- **25 Sept**: Pre-Sail Conference
- **28 Sept to 3 Oct**: Serial Exercises Phase
- **4 Oct to 7 Oct**: Crisis Scenario Phase
- **7 Oct**: End of exercise. All naval units return Toulon.

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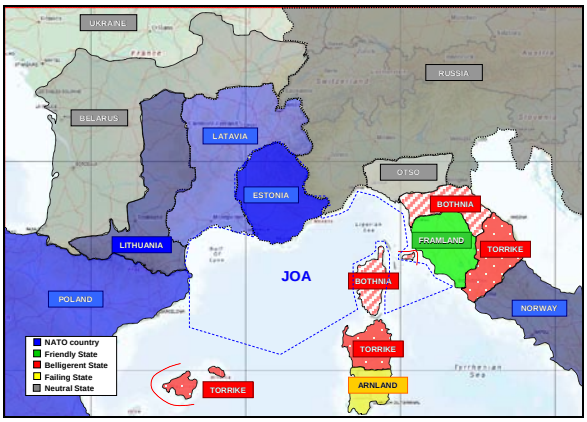
2. Scenario



The crisis simulated in NOMR12 will oppose Bothnia and Estonia, two countries located in the Gulf of Finland in the Medkan region. The Bothnian people are turning against the authoritarian regime ruling the country in increasing numbers and keep demanding more freedom. Many of these dissidents have fled Bothnia to seek asylum in Estonia.

The recent integration of Estonia in NATO worries Bothnia which fears that it might fuel more unrest domestically. The growing presence of NATO in the region is therefore perceived as a threat.

Bothnia seeks to destabilise the fragile regional balance by supporting terrorist organisations. Various sources indicate that the country plans to engage in a large spectrum of military actions against its dissidents and against Estonia.

At Estonia's request, NATO is deploying the NRF in order to prevent an escalation of the crisis and the degradation of regional security. Task Force 445 is now closing on the Gulf of Finland to protect local populations and contribute to the stabilisation of the situation

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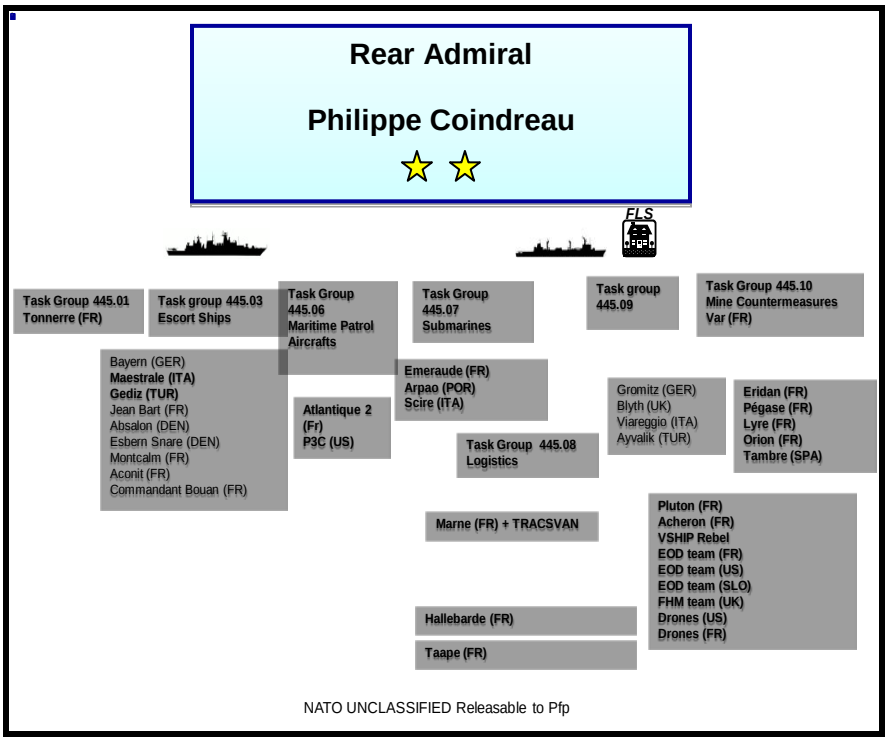
3. Taskforce 445 organisation



- Multi-national staff onboard FS Tonerre (150 staff officers)
- 26 warships from 10 nations
- 7 helicopters
- 3 Maritime Patrol Aircraft
- Jet fighters reinforcements: 11 SUPER ETENDARD MODERNISE, 8 RAFALE and 2 HAWKEYES from French Aircraft Carrier Charles de Gaulle; 4 MIRAGE 2000 from Istres and Orange airbases ; 1 AWACS from Avord airbase.

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4. Taskforce 445 composition

Task Group 445.01 (Task Force Command)

Projection and Command Ship

FRANCE

Command

This ship is designed for three different setups: for amphibious operations, as helicopter carrier or as hospital ship. 9,150 ft² (850m²) are dedicated to embark a fully manned force command staff (up to 200 staff officers) with modular and pre-connected work space.

During NOMR12, the TF 445 commander and his staff will embark onboard this unit.

Specifications and Capabilities

56,000 ft² Flight deck (5,200 m²) including 6 helicopter landing spots
A 28,500 ft² (2,650 m²) hangar for vehicles and cargo
Capacity: 16 heavy helicopters (NH90 or Tigre), 80 vehicles, 450 fully equipped soldiers
Amphibious: 4 cargo landing crafts or 2 LCAC (Landing Crafts Air Cushion)
Accommodations: 650 beds.

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Task Group 445.03 (Escort Ships)

Air Defence frigate
GERMANY

Guided-missile frigate
TURKEY

Anti-submarine frigate
ITALY

Flexible Support Ships
DANEMARK

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Multi-mission stealth Frigate

FRANCE

Anti-submarine Frigate

FRANCE

Anti-air Frigate

FRANCE

Coastal Anti-submarine Frigate

FRANCE

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Task Group 445.06 (Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA))

Maritime Patrol Aircraft

FRANCE

Maritime Patrol Aircraft

UNITED-STATES

Task Group 445.08 (Logistics)

A 630 Marne

Command and replenishment Ship

FRANCE

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Task Group 445.07 (Submarines)

Nuclear Attack Submarine

FRANCE

Attack Submarine

ITALY

Attack Submarine

PORTUGAL

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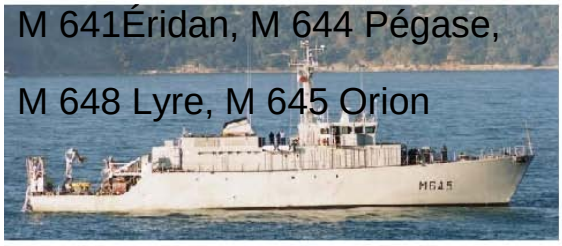
Task Group 445.10 (Mines Countermeasures)

Command & Replenishment Ship

FRANCE

Clearance Divers Base Ships

FRANCE



Mine Countermeasures Vessels

FRANCE

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EXERCISE NOBLE MARINER 2012 MEDIA KIT

Other Mine Countermeasures Vessels (MCM)

Mine Countermeasures Vessels

ITALY

Mine Countermeasures Vessels

TURKEY

Mine Countermeasures Vessels

UNITED KINGDOM

Mine Countermeasures Vessels

SPAIN

Mine Countermeasures Vessels

GERMANY

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5. The NATO Response Force

"NATO will no longer have the large, massed units that were necessary for the Cold War, but will have agile and capable forces at Graduated Readiness levels that will better prepare the Alliance to meet any threat that it is likely to face in this 21st century" (General James Jones, SACEUR, 2002)

The NRF Response Force (NRF) was announced at the Prague Summit in November 2002. It is a highly ready and technologically advanced multinational force made up of land air, maritime and Special Forces components that the Alliance can deploy quickly to wherever it is needed.

The NRF is based on a rotational system; nations commit land, air, naval or special forces units to the Immediate Response Force for a twelve-months period. The NRF is also open to Partner countries, once approved by the North Atlantic Council.

Each rotation of the Force has to prepare itself for a wide range of tasks – for example, contributing to the preservation of territorial integrity, making a demonstration of force, peace support operations, disaster relief, protection of critical infrastructures, security operations and, as part of a larger force, conducting initial entry operations.

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As units rotate through the NRF, the associated high standards, concepts and technologies are gradually spread throughout the Alliance, thereby fulfilling one of the key purposes of the NRF – the further transformation of Allied Forces.

The NRF also provides a visible assurance of NATO's cohesion and commitment to deterrence and collective defence.

Notable contributions:

2004

- Protection of the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece
- Protection of the 2004 Afghan presidential elections

2005

- Air delivery of relief supplies donated by NATO members and Partners to the US in dealing with the aftermath of hurricane Katrina
- Disaster Relief operations in Pakistan following the devastating 8 October earthquake.

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6. FRMARFOR

The Commander of the French Aero Maritime Rapid Reaction Force (COMFRMARFOR) is a French Navy flag officer capable of assuming command of the maritime component of a multinational task force or task group within particularly short notice.

COMFRMARFOR advises operational and support headquarters on the conduct of multinational maritime operations led by France.

Be it in times of peace, crisis or conflict FRMARFOR is organized and manned to be fully integrated within NATO and EU missions or a coalition's command structure.

Consequently, FRMARFOR is certified to be integrated to NATO's Response Force (NRF). During the second half of 2010, France therefore participated in the NRF's 14th rotation.

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The multi-national staff, whether on shore or deployed at sea, is organized in functional cells to reflect NATO's standards.

In peace time, FRMARFOR is manned by 109 staff officers from 10 Allied Nations. When the headquarters is deploying, it is reinforced by an additional 60 staff officers coming from French and Allied organisations.

When not deployed for an operation or an exercise, FRMARFOR plans upcoming activities and follows closely current operations and international developments from its Toulon-based headquarters, in Southern France.

When deployed, FRMARFOR embarks onboard a command ship where the multinational staff benefits from briefing rooms and its own means of communication.

FRMARFOR can deploy anywhere in the world, anytime and with particularly short notice.

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7. Biographies

Commander Allied Maritime Command Northwood

Admiral George Zambellas, DSC, GBR N

George Zambellas was educated in Zimbabwe, and at Stowe and Southampton University, graduating in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering. He joined the Royal Navy in 1980 from the aerospace industry and qualified as a pilot in 1982. He flew three tours in different helicopter types, serving in carriers and frigates. After staff training in 1990, and a brief spell as a corporate planner, he commanded the mine hunter HMS CATTISTOCK. In 1993, he was posted to Northwood as a fleet aviation operations officer before promotion in 1995 and command of the frigate HMS ARGYLL.

During the 1997/98 Strategic Defence Review, he served in the MoD Centre Staff, helping to shape the maritime case within Defence's tri-Service balance of investment. In 1999, as a Captain, he commanded HMS CHATHAM, which included Operation PALLISER in Sierra Leone. In 2001 George Zambellas attended the Higher Command and Staff Course, and then became Deputy Flag Officer Sea Training, responsible for training Royal Navy and foreign warships and auxiliaries.

Between 2002 and 2004, as a Commodore, he was Principal Staff Officer to two Chiefs of the Defence Staff. In 2005, he commanded the Royal Navy's Amphibious Task Group, overseeing the introduction of two new amphibious classes of ships, and the Bowman radio and data system into amphibious operational use. He and his staff supported Operation HIGHBROW, the evacuation of civilians from the Lebanon, in July 2006.

In 2006, as a Rear Admiral, he was appointed as Chief of Staff (Transformation), leading the change programme to design and deliver the Fleet's new approach to the generation of maritime capability and support to operations. In 2007, he was Commander United Kingdom Maritime Force and, in October 2008, Chief of Staff (Operations) at the UK's Permanent Joint Headquarters at Northwood. Promotion to Vice Admiral In January 2011, he was appointed Deputy Commander-in-Chief Fleet, Chief of Staff to the Navy Command Headquarters, and the Chief Naval Warfare Officer.

On promotion to Admiral in January 2012, George Zambellas became Commander-in-Chief Fleet and Allied Maritime Commander (Northwood).

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Commander FRMARFOR

Rear Admiral Philippe Coindreau, FRA N

Married and father of three, Rear Admiral Philippe COINDREAU was born in Toulon on June 12, 1959.

He entered the French Naval Academy in 1979. On completion of the officers' training course on helicopter-carrier Jeanne d'Arc, and an assignment on cruiser Colbert, he opted for the Naval Aviation branch. In January 1983, he joined the academy of certified naval aviation officers located in SALON DE PROVENCE, before pursuing his training on mutli-engine aircraft. In July 1984, he qualified as a Naval Aviation Pilot.

In November 1984 he was assigned to squadron 21F in NIMES-GARONS as a pilot on BREGUET ATLANTIC aircraft, he took part in the *Silure* operation in Gabon in 1985. Promoted to lieutenant in August 1986, he was assigned to squadron 22F as an aircraft commander. Deployed in Djibouti in August 1987, he participated in the beginning of operation *Prométhée*. From November to December 1988, he was sent to Chad within the framework of operation *Epervier*.

In September 1989, he was embarked as instructor onboard Jeanne d'Arc and then joined squadron 23F in September 1990. He was then involved in bringing the ATLANTIQUE 2 maritime patrol aircraft into operational service.

In September 1993, he was assigned to NÎMES-GARONS airbase's Maritime Patrol Training Cell, in charge of the maritime patrol crews' operational mentoring. In September 1994, he joined the War College in Paris and was then assigned to the Joint Operational Center of the Defense Staff within the Yugoslavia crisis cell.
From 1996 to 1998, he was in command of the 23F squadron established in Lann-Bihoué airbase in LORIENT.

In September 1998, he was assigned to the Tactical Staff of the Commander of the Naval Action Force and, in 1999, he participated in operation *Trident* in the Adriatic onboard aircraft-carrier *Foch* during the Kosovo conflict. In 2000, he took part in the last campaign of *Foch* for the *Myrrhe* mission.

In April 2001, he assumed command of frigate *Surcouf based* in TOULON. After a *Corymbe* mission in the Gulf of Guinea between June and July 2001, he participated in the operation *Heracles* off the Iran's coasts, from February to May 2002.

In September 2002, he was assigned to the Staff of the Commander of the Mediterranean Maritime Zone in Toulon and became head of the Naval Air Force Division. In July 2003, he was named as the Commander of Lann-Bihoué Naval airbase.

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In September 1st, 2005, he attended the 55th class of the Center of Advanced Military Studies (CHEM) and the 58th class of the Institute for Advanced Defenses Studies (IHEDN).

From July 2006 to September 2009, he was assigned as military assistant of General Secretary for Administration of the Ministry of Defense.

In September 2009, he joined the French Maritime Force (FRMARFOR) staff as deputy. He participated from August to December 2010 in the fight against piracy at sea in Indian ocean as European Task Force commander during Atalanta operation, then in the French part of the operation Unified Protector off Libyan coasts as commander of the Task Force 473 from March to August 2011.
He was designated COMFRMARFOR in August 2011 and promoted to Rear Admiral (upper half) in July 2012.

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