

# News Release



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## **SNMCMG1 lays wreath to commemorate 9/11**

**LONDON:** Standing NATO Mine Counter Measures Group 1 (SNMCMG1) organised and lead a multi-national maritime wreath laying ceremony at the official World Trade Centre site in commemoration of the victims of the tragic attacks on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 during their recent port visit to New York.

The Group also organised and lead a NATO 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony onboard the group's flag ship, HDMS THETIS. Overlooking the Manhattan Sky Line from onboard the Flag Ship, a moving and dignified Ceremony was executed, with COMSNMCMG1 and the SNMCMG1 Chaplain making speeches in recognition of the victims of the 9/11 disaster, the human sacrifice experienced and the courage of the many family members who lost their loved ones.

The Commemoration Ceremony was attended by prominent representatives from the City and State of New York, the New York Emergency Services and high ranking diplomats and Officers from the American and Dutch Armed Forces. The Ceremony concluded with the Danish Consul General handing over the Dannebrog national flag that was flying on the Consulate building on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001, to the City of New York. The dusty and torn Dannebrog was received by a clearly moved representative of the City.

Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 1 (SNMCMG1) made the port visit to the City of New York prior to the Group assuming responsibility for Mine Clearance Operations in support of the Harry S. Truman, Carrier Strike Group, certification exercise – JTFEX 4-09. The visit formed part of the official New York 400 event, which marks 400 years of unbroken friendship between the City of New York and the City of Amsterdam. Proceedings commenced with a ceremonial harbour entry during which SNMCMG1 in company with HNLMS TROMP, HNLMS VAN SPEIJK and USS CARNEY conducted a sail past, with 21 gun salute from HNLMS TROMP, in honour of the Dutch Royal Family and Senator Hillary Clinton.

MCC Northwood was represented by Deputy Commander MCC Northwood VADM H-J Witthauer who took the opportunity to meet with the Commanding Officers of the Flagship and the 7 MCMVs of SNMCMG1. He congratulated them on their North America deployment, and wishing them all success on the forthcoming Joint exercise with – amongst others – the US Second Fleet Carrier Strike Group. SNMCMG1 departed New York on 13 Sep 09 after an outstanding and truly memorable visit to the Big Apple.

#### Notes to Editors

1. The Group comprises of:
  - HDMS Thetis, Denmark (Flagship)
  - HNOMS Rauma, Norway
  - HMS Quorn, United Kingdom
  - HNLMS Urk, The Netherlands
  - BNS Lobelia, Belgium
  - ENS Sakala, Estonia
  - HMCS Goose Bay, Canada
  - HMCS Shawinigan, Canada
  
2. Photo: The Danish Consul General handing over the Dannebrog national flag that was flying on the Consulate building on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001, to the City of New York

For more information about SNMCMG1 please visit [www.manw.nato.int](http://www.manw.nato.int).