

News Release



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SNMCMG1 conducting a major exercise in Danish Waters

Standing NATO Mine Countermeasure Group 1 SNMCMG1 is currently in Danish waters conducting Danish Mine Countermeasures Exercise 2009 (Danish MCMEX 09). Previously, the Group were in Cherbourg and transited through the Kiel Canal to Danish waters.

This exercise will be conducted in cooperation with the Danish Navy, Air Force and Home Guard, although the MCMV's will initially concentrate on mine clearance operations.

Exercise mines have been laid to maximise training for all units, which when coupled with the environmental conditions and the Danish winter weather create a significant challenge.

Outside of the MCM phase, SNMCMG1 will conduct live gunnery and missile firings, using all available systems against dedicated targets. Surface, air and asymmetric warfare will be exercised along with damage control and search and rescue exercises.

The Danish MCMEX 09 concludes what has been a very busy and challenging year for SNMCMG1, who have been involved in exercises on both sides of the Atlantic and live operations, during which they have cleared some 42 Tonnes of unexploded ordnance. It is most definitely the current group's grand finale and a perfect way to end a busy, challenging and unique year.

On completion of the exercise SNMCMG1 will conduct a port visit to the town of Svendborg, Denmark, where they will have an opportunity to reflect on their achievements during 2009 and enjoy a well-earned break before dispersing for the Christmas holiday on 15 Dec 09.

Notes to Editors

1. The Group comprises of:
 - HDMS Thetis, Denmark (Flagship)
 - HNOMS Rauma, Norway
 - HMS Quorn, United Kingdom
2. ENS SAKALA detached from the group on leaving the Kiel Canal, returning to her home base of Tallinn, Estonia.
3. Standing NATO Mine Countermeasure Group 1 was scheduled to conduct Historical Ordnance Disposal Operations (HOD Ops) in the English Channel in early November, however due to severe storms and unfavourable conditions in the assigned operating area the Group were forced to remain alongside in Cherbourg Naval Base, cancelling operations.

For more information about SNMCMG1 please visit www.manw.nato.int.