

# News Release



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## **NATO Minehunters Rendezvous off Netherlands Coast**

London: The ships of NATO's Standing Mine Countermeasures Group 1 (SNMCMG1) rendezvoused 23 nautical miles to the south-west of Den Helder on last Tuesday.

HMS Walney (United Kingdom) and HNLMS Middelburg (Netherlands) were welcomed to SNMCMG1 by the Commander SNMCMG1, Cdr Krzysztof Jan Rybak (POL N). The Belgian minehunter BNS Aster sailed from her home port of Zeebrugge and met up with the Group on Wednesday 11 February.

SNMCMG1 will now prepare for their first Historical Ordnance Disposal Operations (HOD Ops).

SNMCMG1 is one of NATO's two specialist Mine Countermeasures (MCM) Groups. It is a permanently established, multinational, seagoing force of MCM vessels. It provides a continuous maritime Mine Countermeasures capability for operations in peacetime and periods of conflict.

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

**Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 1**  
Safeguarding our Seaways