

# News Release



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## **HMS Walney helps destroy bombs in North Sea**

HMS Walney has been operating off the coast of Lowestoft as part of the Standing NATO Mine Counter Measures Group 1 (SNMCMG1). She is currently involved in 'Beneficial Cooperation' in company with the Dutch mine hunter HNLMS MIDDELBURG and the Belgium mine hunter BNS ASTER. 'Beneficial Cooperation' is a multi national operation to clear WW1 and WW2 ordnance off the UK and Netherlands coasts.

HMS WALNEY's Commanding Officer Lt Cdr Marcus Jacques RN stated " with old ordnance being discovered on almost a weekly basis the current benign conditions are ideal for us to hunt for and destroy potentially lethal war relics ranging from air dropped bombs to mines and torpedoes. In doing so our aim is to reduce the risk not only to local fishermen, but also to the vast array of merchant and civilian vessels now frequenting our waters. So far the group have destroyed four air dropped munitions and have cleared over a dozen areas previously believed to hold discarded ordnance"

SNMCMG1 having operated in the region will enter the Baltic prior to a further period of Beneficial Cooperation later in the year. The SNMCMG1, is for the first time, under the Command of the Polish Navy and Commander Krzysztof Jan Rybak with his flagship the ORP KONTRADMIRAL XAWERY CZERNICKI.

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