

AIR ATTACK – GERMAN FAST PATROL BOAT EXERCISE

Attacks from two PA200 Tornados from the 51(GE) Tactical Reconnaissance Wing on SNMCMG1 units were the most spectacular serials conducted whilst exercising in company with two 7th FPB Squadron units. Standing NATO MCM Group 1, from Monday 22 March, has been conducting training in the Mecklenburg Bight preparing for their biggest challenge in the first half of year – Exercise Brilliant Mariner 2010, the NRF 15 Certification Exercise.

On completion of Polish Route Survey Operations, SNMCMG1 proceeded to Warnemuende Naval Base where they conducted a port visit 19 – 22 Mar 10. The Group sailed Monday 22 March 2010 to conduct training in the Mecklenburg Bight, executing a detailed programme and making the final preparations for Exercise Brilliant Mariner 2010. SNMCMG1 remained in the Mecklenburg Bight until 2 Mar 10, when they moved to alternative training areas where ships will focus on Mine Warfare and Diving training.

The highlight of the past week was our interaction with Two German, Gepard Class, Fast Patrol Boats (FGS HYAENE and FGS WIESEL) from the 7th FPB Squadron. The two FPB, together with SNMCMG1, participated in joint exercises over Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 March 2010. Anti Air Warfare exercises formed the crux of the training period with two aircraft (Panavia Tornado IDS) from the 51 (GE) Tactical Reconnaissance Wing conducting attacks on the group as part of the scheduled air defence exercises. During the attacks the German FPBs acted in the air defence role; protecting ships from the air assault as the Tornados flew some very impressive attack profiles against the force. SNMCMG1 was able to exercise both unit and group reactions over the two day period gaining some extremely valuable training for all involved. This period proved to be extremely enjoyable and highly successful and most certainly prepared us for the challenges to come during our forthcoming exercises.