

SNMCMG1 AND SNMCMG2 CONDUCT JOINT OPERATION

Two Standing NATO Mine Countermeasure Groups conducted a port visit to Le Havre from Friday 14 May to Monday 16 May prior to their joint operation 'Historical Ordnance Disposal, Bay of Somme, 2010'. During the visit there was a press conference, a charity run and preparation for their joint operation. Both groups will operate from 17-23 May to their assigned operating areas, in which they will conduct their mission to make the seas, in this case the English Channel, safer for all seafarers.

SNMCMG1 units arrived in Le Havre on Friday 14 May 2010, followed one day later by SNMCMG2, who berthed alongside Group 1 units. COMSNMCMG1, Commander Krzysztof Rybak and COMSNMCMG2, Captain Patrioio Rapalino took part in a combined press conference, which provided a great opportunity to describe the mission, tasks, history and core business of SNMCMG1 and 2 as well as helping to increase awareness of the work that the both Groups were preparing to undertake, Historical Ordnance Disposal, Bay of Somme, 2010.

The Port visit was also an occasion to carry out a charity event with the Belgian crew from the minehunter BNS ASTER organizing a fun run event on Saturday 15 May 2010 in order to raise money for under privileged children in Blankenberge City, Belgium. Many of the crews took part with some wearing fancy dress which made the run entertaining for all involved.

Both groups left le Havre on 17 May 2010, with SNMG2 leaving first followed by SNMCMG1. All units will operate in French Territorial Water and Exclusive Economical Zone near the port of Dieppe for the duration of the operation. The main threat for units during this period is from acoustic/magnetic sensor fitted mines and aircraft bombs remaining from WWII. Historical Ordnance Disposal, Bay of Somme, 2010 will end on Sunday 23 May 2010.

For the duration of joint operation the French Mine Hunter FS Eridan has joined SNMG1. The ships in SNMCMG2 are flag ship, ITS Granatier; minehunters SPS Seruga, TCG Edincik, ITS Rimini and the French Mine Hunter FS Cephee.