

Ships go to sea for Joint Warrior 102

On Sunday, 3rd of October, ships of SNMCMG1 went underway to start sea phase of Joint Warrior 102. After the weekend filled by pre-sail conference, and preparations for going underway, all SNMCMG1 ships left Glasgow (Scotland) and started their transit to area of operations off coast of Scotland. This is the last opportunity for SNMCMG1 this year to cooperate in scenario-based exercise.

Joint Warrior is a multinational exercise coordinated and led by UK that combines land, air and maritime operations in an unstable region of the world. It is the second Joint Warrior exercise this year, and the scenario evolves onwards from the point it stopped in May. There are more than thirty ships from 14 countries and two Standing NATO Groups taking part in the maneuvers. Mine countermeasures vessels of SNMCMG1 are responsible for preparing (clearing) coastal waters for frigates and destroyers (SNMG2) to enter '*northern disputed zone*' between Dragonia and Caledonia. At the same time the ships are ready for counteracting asymmetric threat and other terrorist activities in the region.

The sea phase of the exercise is conducted from 3rd to 13th of October in the North Sea between UK and Ireland. The goal of this exercise is to enforce peace in unstable region of the world having UN Security Council Resolution as a mandate to do so. The main focus for Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 1 (SNMCMG1) is conducting anti-mine operations as well as responding to any other possible situations that are expected to take place during any conflict.

The scenario for Joint Warrior 102 is entirely fictitious although there are similarities with present and future areas of naval operations. It has been designed to support the exercise aims and objectives. Due to conflict escalation between three artificial countries UN Security Council has developed a resolution upon which NATO forces are currently getting into the unstable region to resolve the situation.