

SNMCMG1 participates in BALTOPS 2010

SNMCMG1 are currently taking part in BALTOPS 2010, NATO's Partnership for Peace exercise which aims to promote maritime interoperability between NATO and non-NATO participants. The main objective for SNMCMG1 during BALTOPS 2010 exercise is to clear the sea bed of exercise mines and to ensure safety for sailors and soldiers during the amphibious landing operation. Since 10th June SNMCMG1 units together with other mine countermeasure vessels (MCMVs) have been carrying out clearance operations in Hara Bay, Estonia.

The BALTOPS exercise began in the Polish Naval Base at Gdynia, Poland on 5th June. The ships departed Gdynia on 7th June and proceeded to their assigned area in Hara Bay. As a result of the countermining operation which was completed on 14th June, a clear and successful amphibious landing force was achieved.

During this exercise, MCMVs found a few live underwater explosive ordnances (UXOs) which have been destroyed in conjunction with the Estonian navy. In addition, the German unit, FGS Rottweil disposed of a WWII ground mine TMB-2. Mines are still a real threat for safe shipping and this exercise showed how important the SNMCMG1 mission is to clear seaways and make the seas safer for all users today.