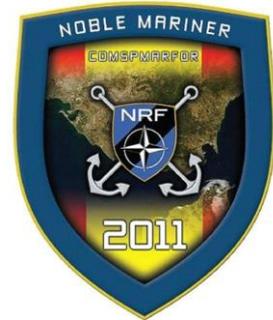


# News Release



**NATO**  
**Allied Maritime Command**  
**Northwood**  
[www.manw.nato.int](http://www.manw.nato.int)



Ref: NM11/01

3 February 2011

## **NATO's Immediate 'Response Force' Conducts Maritime Exercise off Coast of Spain**

**London:** NATO's Response Force (NRF), which is commanded by Vice Admiral Juan A Cuadrillero Pinilla, Spanish Navy, will soon commence a maritime exercise off the coast of Spain to ensure they are 'fully prepared' to respond, as required, to operations or crisis situations wherever in the world they may occur. The exercise, which is code-named Noble Mariner, will take place between 28 February - 10 March 2011.

Up to 3,500 NATO personnel from 11 nations will participate in the Noble Mariner exercise. The exercise will involve up to 20 warships, including the Spanish command ship SPS Castilla, frigates, tankers and mine counter measure vessels, together with 4 submarines and 4 aircraft.

Exercise Noble Mariner is coordinated by the staff of the Allied Maritime Command, Northwood, London, with a realistic exercise scenario presenting a number of challenges for the commanders at sea, including asymmetric threats, maritime security operations, embargo operations and terrorist incidents.

Ends

Notes to editors:

1. The Allied Press Information Centre( APIC) will be set up at Rota, Spain between 28 February – 3 March 2011. The point of contact for the APIC between 28 February – 3 March will be Major Jos Hekking – email address: [hekking@googlemail.com](mailto:hekking@googlemail.com)
2. After 3 March 2011 the APIC will move to Spanish flagship SPS Castilla and after 3 March all APIC enquiries should be directed to Lt Cdr Heather Lane [heather.lane860@googlemail.com](mailto:heather.lane860@googlemail.com).
3. Media representatives are invited to attend a media event on board the Spanish flagship SPS Castilla on Friday 4 March 2011. The outline programme is below and the confirmed programme will be sent to the media attending the day prior to the event. If you are interested in attending the media event please email Lt Victoria Álvarez Medel - [valvmen@fn.mde.es](mailto:valvmen@fn.mde.es) no later than 12:00, Friday 25 February 2011.

4. Outline timings for the media event are as follows:

0800	Media representatives met at the Muelle Levante Puerto Almeria.
0800 – 0830	ID, baggage security checks, health and safety brief carried out. Press passes handed out.
0830 – 0900	Media representatives embark passenger boat to transit to Spanish flag ship SPS Castilla (SPS Castilla will be approximately 2 miles off shore)
0900 – 0930	Embark SPS Castilla. Refreshments offered.
0930 – 1000	Exercise Noble Mariner briefing by Spanish Maritime Force (SPMARFOR) Officer
1000 – 1230	Witness amphibious landings, a boarding and aid to stricken vessel exercise.
1230 – 1400	Press Conference with opportunity for one to one interviews.
1400 – 1430	Media representatives embark passenger boat, transit ashore to Almeria escorted by Navy Media Officers
1500 – 1530	Navy Media Officers return to SPS Castilla

All visitors to NATO warships are required to provide photographic ID prior to boarding. Understandably, any person who is not pre-booked to attend the media event and/or arriving without photographic ID **will not** be allowed on board the ship. Security checks of bags and any camera equipment will also be carried out. Early bids to attend the media event are recommended.