

News Release



Allied Maritime Command Northwood

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NATO's Immediate 'Response Force' Conducts Maritime Exercise

London: NATO's Response Force (NRF) will conduct a maritime exercise in the Northern and Baltic Sea during April 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 Brilliant Mariner, will take place between 12 - 22 April 2010.

6,500 military personnel from 10 NATO nations (France as Maritime commander, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, UK and USA) will participate in the Brilliant Mariner exercise, together with one Partnership for Peace country (Sweden). The exercise will involve 31 warships (including an aircraft carrier, frigates, tankers and mine counter measure vessels), 4 submarines and 28 aircraft.

Exercise Brilliant 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*.

Speaking about the exercise, NATO's maritime commander, Admiral Sir Trevor Soar commented "Exercise Brilliant Mariner is an opportunity to really put NATO forces through their paces. As well as operational training, an important aspect of the exercise is the humanitarian aid training that the forces will carry out. This will ensure that, if called, NATO forces can make a real difference in a crisis situation".

Rear-Admiral Jean-Louis Kerignard, commanding the French maritime force, will be conducting the exercise from the flagship FS Mistral : "As Maritime component commander during Exercise Brilliant Mariner, we will work closely with all the participating nations in order to certify our readiness for NRF15. The scenario we are going to deal with provides the naval units with a great opportunity to train with efficiency, in order to overcome the threats we are liable to face together".

Ends

Notes to editors:

1. The Allied Press Information Centre will be in Frederikshavn, Denmark from 13 – 23 April
2. Full details are available from Lt Cdr Jacqui Sherriff, Chief Public Affairs Officer, Allied Maritime Command, Northwood for this exercise. Tel +44 1923 956967 or email pio@manw.nato.int.