

Exercise Brilliant Mariner Underway

87 military personnel from 15 NATO nations plus Finland, a Partnership for Peace country, based at the Allied Maritime Command, Northwood are controlling a maritime exercise in the Northern and Baltic seas. The exercise, codenamed Brilliant Mariner, which started on Monday 12 April and runs until 22 April, is designed to ensure NATO's Response Force is fully prepared to respond as required to operations or crisis situations, wherever in the world they occur.

Brilliant Mariner presents a realistic scenario with challenges for the commanders at sea including maritime security, embargo and humanitarian operations, asymmetric threats and 'terrorist' incidents. Exercise Control at Northwood's role is to lead the escalation of the crisis, monitor the safety of the units at sea, guide NATO and the 'opponent' forces and play out a variety of incidents to which the units have to react, including medical, piracy and logistics scenarios. Exercise Control also has to adapt the scenario to take into account real world events such as the cloud of volcano ash currently hampering air activities.

Regular serving members of NATO's Armed Forces stationed in Northwood have been augmented by members of NATO's Reserve Forces and journalists providing a simulated press function. The team is coordinating the movements of 37 warships, including four submarines and an aircraft carrier, and 30 aircraft, manned by 5,500 military personnel from 11 NATO nations plus Sweden, a Partnership for Peace country.