

News Release



**Allied Maritime
Command Headquarters
Northwood**



19 April 2011

NATO Prepares For Submarine Rescue Exercise in Spanish Waters

At the end of May this year NATO will carry out a 12 day submarine rescue exercise. The exercise, which is code-named Exercise Bold Monarch 11, is held every three years and is the world's largest submarine rescue exercise, involving submarines, ships and aircraft from both NATO and non-NATO countries, including Russia. This will be the first time a Russian submarine has participated in any NATO exercise.

Bold Monarch 11 will be conducted off the coast of Spain, near Cartagena, between 30 May - 10 June 2011. Approximately two thousand military and non military personnel will attend from over twenty countries. The exercise is designed to maximise international cooperation in submarine rescue operations – something that has always been very important to NATO and all the submarine-operating nations.

During the exercise submarines from Italy, Portugal, Russia, Spain and Turkey will be 'bottomed' in a sea area just off the coast of Spain, NE of Cartagena. Rescue forces equipped with a range of sophisticated debris clearance, diver assisted gear and submarine rescue vehicles from Italy, the USA, Russia and Sweden, together with a jointly owned rescue system from France, Norway and the UK, will engage in a serialized programme to 'rescue' the stricken submariners. Specialist divers and hyperbaric medical teams from France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the UK will work from support ships and be tasked to deal with complex medical problems in what is a very demanding maritime environment. Air units will also deploy from Italy, the UK and US to assist in locating the distressed submariners and to deploy parachutists to provide first reaction assistance.

Exercise Bold Monarch 2011 will culminate with a 48 hour coordinated rescue and evacuation of 150 survivors, including many casualties, from a 'disabled' submarine. Emphasis will be placed on the command and control of such an incident under internationally agreed NATO procedures. The compatibility between the rescue assets, standardization of procedures and coordination and cooperation between ALL national elements, both military and civilian, will be demonstrated in Bold Monarch 2011.

With over 40 nations operating submarines worldwide, interest in this exercise is expected to extend to the entire global submarine community including Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, India, Japan, Pakistan, Peru and S. Korea and many nations are sending representatives to observe what is an extremely realistic exercise.

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Notes to editors:

1. The Allied Press Information Centre(APIC) will be set up on board Spanish Command Ship ESPS Galicia at sea off Cartagena between 27 May – 10 June 2011. The media point of contact for the APIC is Lt Cdr Andrew Mills Royal Navy – email address: andrew@nephria.com. A Visitors' Reception Area will be set up at San Pedro del Pinatar.

2. Media representatives are invited to attend a media event on board ESPS Galicia on Tuesday 7 June 2011. If you are interested in attending the media event please email Lt Cdr Mills at andrew@nephria.com no later than 12:00 Friday 27 May 2011. Only media representatives who have been allocated a place will be able to attend the media event on Tuesday 7 June 2011.

3. Outline timings for the media event:

0700 Media Arrive at Hotel Thalasia, San Pedro del Pinatar (Visitor Reception Area)
Receive safety brief / media accreditation

0715 - 0730 Coach transfer to San Pedro del Pinatar jetty

0800 Boat transfer to Command Ship ESPS Galicia

0830 Media welcomed on board ESPS Galicia. BOLD MONARCH 11 briefing

0900 onwards Media transfer to Support Vessels (4 groups)

1000 – 1500 Programme arranged by each Support Vessel

1500 onwards Media return to ESPS GALICIA

1600 Submarine Parachute Assistance Group (SPAG) insertion demonstration. All media observe SPAG demonstration from ESPS Galicia

1630 Media visit life raft village by boat and meet SPAG team

1715 Media begin return transit to San Pedro del Pinatar

1800 Media arrive at San Pedro del Pinatar and dispersed by coach to Hotel Thalasia and Murcia Airport

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