



NATO SHIPPING CENTRE NEWSLETTER

September 2012

NATO'S PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING COMMUNITY

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The NATO Shipping Centre – NATO's Maritime Information Fusion Centre *The NATO Shipping Centre remains NATO's point of contact for the Merchant community in the new Headquarters Allied Maritime Command Northwood*



As part of the new NATO structure, Allied Maritime HQ Naples and Allied Maritime HQ Northwood will merge into one maritime headquarters Headquarters Allied Maritime Command Northwood (MARCOM Maritime Command) located in Northwood, United Kingdom, as of the 1st of December, 2012. The new Allied HQ will provide specialist maritime expertise to the Joint Force Commander in Brunssum, the Netherlands, in support of joint and combined missions as well as operations whenever or wherever required while remaining a centre of maritime excellence.



The NATO Shipping Centre is a pivotal part of this new maritime headquarters, by representing the Naval Co-operation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS) capability within NATO. As of March 2013, Operation Active Endeavour, NATO's anti-terrorism operation in the Mediterranean, will be lead from the new MARCOM with the NATO Shipping Centre as the point of contact for the Merchant community. Operation Active Endeavour is part of NATO's multi-faceted response to the terrorist threat. Its mission is to conduct maritime operations in the Mediterranean and demonstrate NATO's resolve to help deter, defend, disrupt and protect merchant vessels against terrorism. Read more on our webpage: <http://www.shipping.nato.int> The sub page for Operation Active Endeavour: <http://www.shipping.nato.int/operations/AE/Pages/Default.aspx>

A New Look - Development of Northwood HQ websites

The main homepages for both Allied Maritime Command Northwood and the NATO Shipping Centre will be renewed later this year.

The NATO Shipping Centre's web layout will be more user friendly with easier and more intuitive ways to find the information you are looking for. The content will be improved, with more information about current operations, updates, guidance and advice exercise information, and more. Watch this space for further details on the changes to come. As always, your comments or ideas will be welcomed: info@shipping.nato.int

Do you know about "SRIM" and the Security Planning Charts

Another new web-based service is launched by The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office.

The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office issues and maintains Admiralty Maritime Security Planning Charts (Q Series) so that they are fully up-to-date with the latest security-critical navigational information. At the moment there are 3 charts: Q6099 - Anti-Piracy Planning Chart - Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea, Q6110 - Mediterranean Sea, Q6111 - Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea, and additional charts will be issued. These charts are

updated/corrected using the established United Kingdom Hydrographic Office Notices to Mariners process. (www.ukho.gov.uk) at ProductsandServices/MaritimeSafety.

At the same link you will find a new service, the Admiralty Security Related Information to Mariners (SRIM) service. It provides all of the data you need to maintain the Q Series charts as well as additional security related information which will aid passage planning.

New threats, embargo, exclusion zones and specific advice will be promulgated using the Security Related Information to Mariners (SRIM) and can be viewed by clicking on the relevant Q Chart Tab. The data and information within the Security Related Information to Mariners (SRIM) is compiled and validated by government and military officials directly involved within the operation. The NATO Shipping Centre is contributing to the security charts and the Security Related Information to Mariners with up-to-date information.

Piracy helpline for West Africa

The increase in piracy related incidents off the coast of Africa is of great concern to merchant shipping and their seafarers transiting this region.

The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Piracy Reporting Centre is currently the only 24 hours a day anti Piracy helpline for WEST AFRICA. Contact details of IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (IMB PRC):

Tel: +60 3 2078 5763 / +60 3 2031 0287 / + 60 3 2031 3106
24 Hrs ANTI PIRACY HELPLINE: +60 3 2031 0014 (Manned 24 Hrs a day / 7 days a week)
General E-mail: imbkl@icc-ccs.org / piracy@icc-ccs.org

Currently, NATO does not conduct any operations off the coast of West Africa. However, we are monitoring the situation in the area and would like you to forward any information concerning any disruption of normal merchant traffic. Send your pictures and/or information to The NATO Shipping Centre at info@shipping.nato.int.

Exercise Noble Mariner 12 (NM 12)

Military operations will frequently involve, or have some impact, on merchant shipping and vice-versa. The Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS) organisation bridges the gap between operational forces and merchant shipping by providing a framework for communication. One of the key points in the NCAGS organisation is the NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) as the main and primary permanent point of contact for the shipping community within NATO.

The NATO Shipping Centre's information management system is designed to respect commercial sensitivities. The shipping industry should be aware that the integrity of particularly sensitive commercial information, when given to the NSC, is respected. Conversely, commercial operators not limited to NATO flagged or owned vessels will be encouraged to participate in operations or exercises to support the general economic flow of shipping. Whereas some nations are well equipped to provide advice for their own 'flag' vessels, this is not true of all countries. The NATO Shipping Centre will assist all vessels, regardless of flag, wishing to co-operate with NATO, and we have done so during a large number of operations.

You can always find the latest update on NATO exercises at sea on our website <http://www.shipping.nato.int/Pages/Exercises.aspx>. The next MULTINATIONAL NATO Exercise is NOBLE MARINER 12. It is scheduled to be conducted 24SEP - 07OCT 2012 in the area of South France, North-West Italy, North Mediterranean, Ligurian Sea, Gulf of Genoa, Gulf of Lion, limited by meridian 004⁰E and parallel 42⁰N.

The NCAGS organisation will be involved in establishing direct contact with the ships visiting the harbours Toulon and Marseille during the exercise. NCAGS Briefing Officers (BO) will present the masters with information involving specific details describing NCAGS engagement and tasks to be fulfilled during exercises or live operations. Moreover, it will provide an opportunity to run live training (boarding, hailing, passage with a close assistance of gray ships, VHF contact...) with merchant ships passing through the area of the exercise. Chosen merchants vessels will be contacted by Boarding Coordinator (Maritime Command HQ Northwood - NATO Shipping Centre Staff Officer) and invited to voluntarily take part in the exercise on a no cost, no delay basis. More specific information will be issued the week before the start of Exercise NOBLE MARINER 12 as NAVAREA III NAVWARN.

Shipping companies and merchant ships planning to transit the exercise area are invited to inform the NATO Shipping Centre of their intended route and destination, by submitting a Format ALFA form (for details see below) by e-mail to the following e-mail address: info@shipping.nato.int. For further information feel free to call: +44 1923 956574

Format Alfa – Ship Data Card

Ships Name

International Call Sign

IMO Number

INMARSAT and e-mail contact details

DTG / Position / Speed / Course

Next Port of Call / ETA

Note: Timings should be in UTC/Zulu

Your participation will be very much appreciated.

The NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) Northwood UK, remains NATO's primary point of contact; e-mail: info@shipping.nato.int Phone: +44 1923 956574 fax: +44 1923 956575

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NCAGS/NATO Shipping Centre

