

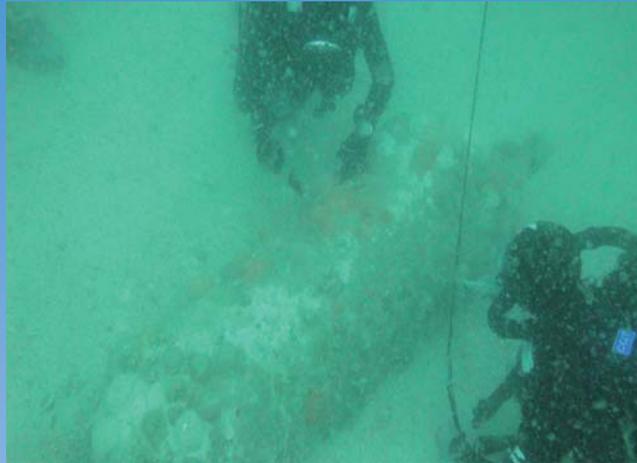
Standing NATO Mine Counter Measure Group 2 (SNMCMG2)

SNMCMG2 is a multinational, integrated maritime force made up of vessels from various Allied nations, training and operating together as a single team. The Group is permanently available to NATO to perform a wide range of tasks ranging from participation in exercises to crisis response and real world operational missions. Usually the Group is employed in the Mediterranean area but can be deployed anywhere NATO requires.

Composition of the Force varies as naval units are provided by NATO contributing nations on a rotational basis and Command of the Force also rotates among them. The current commander of SNMCMG2 is Captain Georgios Pelekanakis, Greek Navy. He reports to the Commander of the Allied Maritime Command Naples, an Italian Vice Admiral.

Nations routinely contributing to the Force are Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain and Turkey. Other NATO nations have also occasionally contributed.

SNMCMG2 carries out a continuous programme of operational training and conducts a varied programme of port visits in and out of the Mediterranean, both to promote NATO and to allow exchanges between NATO crews and the military and civilian population of the country visited.



Mission

To provide NATO with a continuous Mine Counter Measures (MCM) capability for NATO Response Force (NRF) and Non-NRF operations and activities in peacetime and periods of crisis and conflicts.

Other missions that are applicable to SNMCMG2 include establishing Alliance presence, demonstrating solidarity, conducting routine diplomatic visits to Member, Partner and non-NATO countries, supporting transformation and providing a variety of maritime military capabilities to ongoing missions. The Group participates In Operation Active Endeavour, NATO's Article 5 Anti-Terrorist Operation in the Mediterranean.



Operation INAS BAHR

**Operation Friendly Seas
Promoting Cooperation and
Interaction with ICI Countries**



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Operation INAS BAHR

SNMCMG2, under the Operational Command of Allied Maritime Command Naples, has deployed to the Arabian Gulf in order to re-affirm commitment to, and further develop practical maritime aspects of, the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI). This deployment will demonstrate SNMCMG2's sustainable expeditionary capabilities and improve operational capability in unfamiliar waters and at a strategic distance from the Task Group's usual area of operations.



HS SPETSE



FGS HERTEN



HS KALLISTO



ITS VIAREGGIO



ESPS TAJO

FLAGSHIP



Istanbul Cooperation Initiative

During the NATO Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 2004, the Alliance launched the Istanbul Cooperative Initiative (ICI) and invited interested countries in the broader Middle East region to take part, beginning with the member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. To date, four nations have accepted: Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The objective of the ICI is to foster mutually beneficial relations between NATO and the countries of the region as a means of enhancing regional security and stability, with a particular focus on practical cooperation in the defence and security fields.

Demonstrate ability to conduct logistically sustainable operations at strategic distances



Promote Practical Cooperation

This deployment represents an excellent opportunity for military dialogue as a means to enhance understanding and promote co-operation. Interoperability with ICI members can be achieved through active participation in selected military exercises. As well as fostering close links with regional navies and other maritime organisations, this mission will also demonstrate Alliance Mine Counter Measure capability in demanding geographical and climatic environments.

Operating outside the area covered by the defence clause of the NATO Treaty contributes to broadening the knowledge and understanding of the maritime environment, strengthens the relationship with navies and people of friendly nations and improves the ability to support each other in facing common threats, like international terrorism.