

News Release



**Maritime
Command
Northwood**
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Ref: SNMG1 2012 / 03

14 September 2012

MC Northwood becomes the parental HQ for all NATO Standing Maritime Groups.

As the NATO Command Structure Reform continues to progress, another step has been taken to merge two Maritime Headquarters into one. All four groups of the Standing Naval Forces are under administrative command of the Maritime Command in Northwood (UK) now. The groups include two Standing NATO Maritime Groups (SNMG), consisting of frigates and other major warships and two groups of Standing NATO Mine Counter Measure Groups (SNMCMG).

The reform of NATO's Command Structure was launched at the Lisbon Summit in November 2010 and the model and geographical footprint were approved by defence ministers in June 2011. Operational responsibilities currently held by both Maritime Command Naples and Maritime Command Northwood will be transferred to one single Maritime Command (MARCOM). The process is well underway and will culminate with the handover of Operation Active Endeavour from Naples to Northwood in March 2013.

MC Naples will continue to play an important role in Operation Active Endeavour, and will execute operational control of NATO maritime forces deployed to the Mediterranean up until their closure on 28 March 2013. Meanwhile the two staffs cooperate closely to transfer knowledge and expertise in regional matters.

Rear Admiral Ort, Chief of Staff at MC Northwood is satisfied with the progress. “Although this is only one of many steps in the ongoing reform of the NATO Command Structure, the transfer of the remaining SNMG and SNMCMG to Northwood is an important milestone. Organizing NATO’s maritime forces under one command enables us to achieve more, through increased coordination of our assets”, concludes the admiral.

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About SNMG

Standing NATO Maritime Group (SNMG) is a multinational, integrated maritime force - made up of vessels from various allied nations, training and operating together as a single team - that is permanently available to NATO to perform a wide range of tasks, from participating in exercises to crisis response and real world operational missions.

About SNMCG

The Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Groups (SNMCMG) are NATO’s specialist Mine Countermeasures (MCM) Groups. They are a permanently established, multinational, sea going force of MCM vessels, on task continuously, to give NATO the ability to respond to a wide range of missions almost anywhere in the world.

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