PRESS RELEASE

Standing NATO Maritime Group TWO
Operational Handover

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At Sea, 29 June 2012 — SNMG2 UNITS PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISE BREEZE

Bulgarian Frigate and US P3C during an anti-submarine warfare exercise

From 23 June to 30 June FGS Bayern, FS Courbet and TCG Gediz presently forming Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 participated in Exercise Breeze 2012. The Exercise took place in the Black Sea and was sponsored by NATO member Bulgaria. Additional units from Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria and a Maritime Patrol Aircraft of the United States of America were part of one of the biggest exercises in this area.

One of the adversaries was played by a Turkish type 209 submarine reminding all participants to pay attention to the underwater threat. Originally designed to certify Bulgarian Naval units exercise Breeze 2012 provided an excellent training opportunity for SNMG 2 units earmarked as NATO Response Force.

The Exercise ranged from basic single ship training to live gunnery firing.
Speed boat attacks, cooperative boarding exercises, combined anti-submarine warfare and anti-air warfare training are only few of the overall conducted training.

approaches frigate Bayern for a boarding exercise

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German helicopter starting for submarine search

The exercise was directed by Commodore Mitko Petev, Bulgarian Navy and took place off Burgas Bay. It also included a cooperation of military units and civilian institutions in a humanitarean aid scenario. SNMG 2 units, however, concentrated this time on the improvement of their warfighting skills.

The SNMG2 ships composition is currently:
FGS Bayern Frigate Germany (Flagship)
FS Courbert Frigate France
TCG Gediz Frigate Turkey

Sailing and training together within Exercise Breeze

SNMG 2 is a multinational integrated maritime force that forms part of the NATO Response Force and operates under the command of the Allied Maritime Command in Naples. Permanently activated and held at high readiness, it is a mobile and flexible force that allows the Alliance to respond to today's security challenges. Rear Admiral Thorsten Kähler, Commander Standing NATO Maritime Group 2, underlined the training value of Exercise Breeze 2012 for the ships under his command. “We are grateful to the Bulgarian Navy, who conducted this exercise as part of their contribution to NATO” the Admiral pointed out.

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