

News Release



Allied Maritime
Command Headquarters
Northwood



EXERCISE BOLD MONARCH 2011

7 June 2011

RUSSIAN FEDERATION NAVY FULLY INTEGRATED IN NATO SUBMARINE RESCUE EXERCISE BOLD MONARCH

Russian Federation Navy Submarine ALROSA from the Black Sea Fleet based in Sevastapol is pictured on the surface during Exercise Bold Monarch 2011 in waters off the coast of Murcia, Southern Spain.

This remarkable sight marks the groundbreaking progress being made in international cooperation and coordination between submarine operating Navies worldwide. The rescue exercise marks the first time a Russian submarine has ever performed a fully integrated role in a NATO led exercise.

Surfacing amidst a fleet of NATO and non-NATO warships, salvage and diving support vessels, she is a daunting sight to any surface fleet officer regardless of their nation. At Bold Monarch she is a most welcome participant and key player in the numerous rescue scenarios and serials planned.

Supported by the Russian submarine rescue vessel Epron, the Salvage vessel Shahktur, and heavy lifting ship KIL 158, the Alrosa and her Liaison Officers and interpreters have provided crucial support towards the smooth running of the rescue

operations

Admiral Giampaolo di Paola, Chairman of NATO's Military Committee (CMC) hosted a Press Conference on Friday accompanied by Gen Nikolay Makárov, Chief of Joint Staff of Russian Federation Armed Forces and Admiral General Manuel Rebollo Garcia, Chief of the Spanish Navy, along with other NATO officials.

Bold Monarch 2011 is designed to maximize international cooperation in submarine rescue operations – a critical capability for NATO and for all the world's submarine-operating nations. Submarines from Portugal, Russia, Spain and Turkey have been regularly 'bottomed' in a sea area just off the southern coast of Spain. Rescue forces equipped with a range of sophisticated debris clearance, diver-assisted gear and submarine rescue vehicles from Italy, USA, Russia and Sweden, together with a jointly-owned rescue system from France, Norway and United Kingdom engaged in a series of rescue operations for the "sunken" submarines. The exercise concludes with a 36-hour coordinated rescue and evacuation operation for some 70 survivors, including many simulated casualties, from a 'disabled' submarine.

During the visit to the ships, submarine and rescue systems, the Chairman of the Military Committee was briefed on how this exercise can greatly contribute to enhance partner interoperability, providing specific military training, coordinating military assistance, and cooperating with the chain of command of key nations. Compatibility between rescue assets, standardization of procedures, coordination and cooperation between all national elements, both military and civilian, were among the exercise objectives. Bold Monarch is proving invaluable for testing the command and control of this kind of incidents under internationally-agreed NATO procedures.

During the demonstration CMC and General Makárov were 'rescued' from the Russian submarine through the jointly owned French, Norwegian and UK rescue system.

Thanking the Spanish Navy for hosting the exercise, Admiral Di Paola said that “Exercises like the Bold Monarch 2011, beside the great value of all the objectives in terms of improving safety and interoperability at sea, show how much interest and enthusiasm there is, within NATO and beyond, in strengthening networks in the field of cooperation and security.” Gen. Makárov echoed CMC, highlighting the importance of these successful exercises, in light of joint efforts to save human lives.

Detailed information about Exercise Bold Monarch 11 can be found at:

<http://www.manw.nato.int/boldmonarch2011/default.aspx>

For regular updates and imagery from Exercise Bold Monarch visit Facebook Bold Monarch 2011 at:

Information about NATO Military Committee can be found at:

www.nato.int/ims

Follow Exercise Bold Monarch 2011 on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bold-Monarch-2011>

For further enquiries, please contact Lt Cdr Andrew Mills and Lt Cdr Heather Lane at 'paobmh11@yahoo.co.uk' or call 0044 7585 795634.