

# Press Release



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## **NATO Response Force to Conduct Exercise in Mediterranean**

The NATO Live Maritime Exercise Loyal Mariner 2009 (LMR09) will take place over the period 2nd–13th March 2009 off the coast of Sardinia including adjacent Italian territorial waters and airspace. It will be commanded by Vice Admiral Bruce Clingan. This exercise is intended to certify participating maritime forces for the NATO Response Force (NRF).

The purpose of the NRF is to provide a fully integrated combined land, sea and air force that is able to respond at short notice to a wide variety of operational commitments and missions anywhere in the world. Exercise LMR09 will be linked to the Land Command Post Exercise (CPX) Loyal Ledger 2009. Both exercises will make use of a common developed scenario with a coordinated political background.

Exercise Loyal Mariner 2009 will be carried out under the responsibility of Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope KCB OBE, Commander Allied Maritime Component Command Northwood. This exercise will test and certify the maritime units and afloat maritime staffs of the Italian Maritime Force (ITMATFOR), the incoming High Readiness Force (Maritime) Commander, by refining the interoperability and integration of maritime operations.

In parallel, Exercise Loyal Ledger 2009 will evaluate and assess the combat readiness of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) as the incoming land NRF component.

Military personnel from 13 NATO nations (Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Portugal, Spain, The Netherlands, Turkey and the USA) will participate in Loyal Mariner 2009 together with one Partnership for Peace country (Finland). The exercise will involve approximately 40 maritime units including aircraft carriers, frigates, submarines, amphibious and assault ships and mine counter measures vessels.

Notes to Editors:

1. The Allied Press Information Centre will be in Cagliari, Italy from 2nd – 12<sup>th</sup> March and a media day will be held in Cagliari on the 6th March.
2. Full details are available from: Major Jos Hekking, Deputy Public Affairs Officer, Allied Maritime Component Command Northwood for this exercise. Tel. +44 1923 956773, or e-mail [pio@manw.nato.int](mailto:pio@manw.nato.int)