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*Maritime Interdiction Operations
Journal*

10 Years of

Progress,
Expertise,
Innovation,
Sharing with
International
Community

NATO MARITIME INTERDICTION OPERATIONAL
TRAINING CENTRE





NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre

10th Annual Conference Countering Hybrid Threats: An Emerging Maritime Security Challenge



4 - 6 June 2019

CONTENTS



MARITIME INTERDICTION OPERATIONS JOURNAL

Director

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4

Editorial by Stelios Kostalas
Commodore GRC (N)
Commandant NMIOTC

8

Video message by Maj Gen Odd Egil Pedersen
Military Partnerships Directorate (MPD)

12

Video message by Admiral Manfred Nielson
Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation

16

Speech by Geoffrey R. Pyatt
U.S. Ambassador to Greece

20

Speech by Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis
Chief of Hellenic National Defense General Staff

24

NMIOTC 2008 - 2018: 10 Years of Evolution and Progress

30

High Visibility Events

36

NMIOTC Training

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NMIOTC Commandant's Editorial

It is of undeniable common understanding that the Peace and Prosperity of humankind passes through the Seas. And the maintenance of open and secure vital sea lanes is a task that NATO, -dedicated by default to the preservation of peace and stability- could certainly not omit.

The necessity to enhance our capabilities in Maritime Security Operations emerged in the aftermath of 9/11 and the following turbulence. The Hellenic Republic was keen to undertake this mission and along with the friend and allied Nations of Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Italy and the Check Republic established NMIOTC. Poland and Germany later joined in as Sponsoring and US and the UK as Contributing Nations respectively. NMIOTC is the only NATO Education and Training Facility dedicated to

the maritime domain, and one of the very few capacity-building institutions for Maritime Operations worldwide. Maritime Interdiction Operations have proven to be the key enabler and a solution provider in all aspects of maritime security operations, as acknowledged by NATO.

In the Alliance we like abbreviations and acronyms a lot. Interdiction Operations accomplish the mission using the three D's (delay, disrupt, destroy) and implement the three I's (interoperability, interconnectivity, integration) as required in all modern day operations, in the pursuit of Projecting Stability. As for NMIOTC, well it certainly has the three L's. Location – location - location! This ship-designed like building, stands in an outmost strategic point in the Eastern Mediterranean in equal distances to all

major chock points, with Souda Bay being a safe haven for all naval Units to or from operations. The Center is situated in an enchanting natural environment, and it is surrounded by numerous supportive and interoperative military facilities such as NSA, NATO FORACS, NAMFI, Naval Base, etc.

But while all this beauty and convenience, the true reason of the Center's success throughout these 10 years, is the pursuit of excellence in the education and training provided, being focused in efficiently addressing to current and upcoming menaces for Maritime Security. To achieve that, we constantly keep an open eye to the most modern Asymmetric and Hybrid threats, and -equally important- we always seek to establish functioning networks of cooperation and knowledge-exchange with all the major

stake-holders in the game.

Having started modestly 10 years ago with only 5 courses, mainly focusing in Maritime Interdiction Operations basics and Countering Piracy, we have eagerly expanded in developing and delivering twenty two Resident Courses and a big series of customized trainings, responding to a wide spectrum of areas/threats, including: Cyber Security, C-IED, Countering Proliferation of WMD (+CBRN weapons), Counter Illicit Trafficking (both human and goods), Protection of Critical Energy Infrastructure Offshore, Biometrics and Evidence Collection, etc.

Yet, we live in a rapidly changing world and the form of potential threats is ever-changing as a chameleon. While some years ago it was Piracy in the Indian Ocean, today we are dealing with even more difficult and perplexed challenges. Our contribution here, in NMIOTC, to cope with all such current and emerging challenges, consists not only of capacity building through the extensive and always updated training of NATO and Partners personnel (Navies, SOF, Coast Guards, etc), but also through innovation, experimentation and doctrine simulation, as well as through exchange of expertise on all aspects of Maritime Operations.

Considering Socrates' lecture that the admission of ignorance is the beginning of wisdom, we have acknowledged our demand for expertise-outsourcing and we have paid great attention in developing synergies with those who know best in every matter. To this end we have established a network of cooperation with prominent or-

ganizations and institutions to include several Universities and Research Institutions promoting expertise and innovation in differentiated fields of knowledge.

Above all, we seek the collaboration of the actual protagonists of the Seas. Naval and Law Enforcement Operators, mariners and the people of the shipping industry, they are in the epicenter of our concerns, and what keeps them awake at nights becomes the big Q that leads our efforts to always adjust and improve our services to their benefit, while developing NMIOTC and Souda Bay as a regional hub for Maritime Security and Operations.

The training provided at NMIOTC is thus always practically oriented, following the principal "train as you fight and fight as you have been trained" and simulates real life -day and night- situations, using assets and means of actual maritime operations, but without making any discounts in safety and in security procedures.

Overall, the training and education provided by NMIOTC has been appreciated by our trainees, more than 7.000 throughout these 10 years, but also by our Chain of Command in NATO. NMIOTC was the first NETF ever to be awarded by the Allied Command Transformation with a Quality Assurance Unconditional Accreditation, being a proof and a moral satisfaction that "we do the right things, but (also) we do the things right".

Visions without resources are illusions they say, thus it is worth mentioning at this point, that NMIOTC is an organization that runs largely on its own resources. In times of auster-

ity and economic turmoil, we set the goal and achieved a crucial degree of financial sustainability, allowing us to develop without restrictions and with no further burdening our Nation's budgets.

It is self evident that these developments and achievements are not the work of one man or of a single nation. In the face of the NMIOTC Former Commandants, we pay tribute to all those people from all participating nations, who have worked passionately these 10 years and have delivered all these tangible effects. But maybe, above all, the real success of this Center is the family bonding and friendship among us, the crew of the ship, and the everyday joy we experience at work, doing our job efficiently. The real force multiplier of our efforts are the flags flying on the poles outside the building, the osmosis and cooperation of officers from 10 nations, working side by side and bonding to the common benefit.

An iconic figure of the shipping history of the 20th century, Aristotle Onassis, used to say: "We must free ourselves of the hope that the sea will ever rest. We must learn to adjust our sails in high winds." Keeping this thought as a guide, as we celebrate the NMIOTC 10th Anniversary, we promise that we commit ourselves in maintaining this thriving momentum, and keep operating NMIOTC as a quality provider of maritime capacity building, as a Mediterranean hub of synergy and cooperation and as a promoter of knowledge and expertise in maritime security, ever adjusting our sails for the common effort of Peace and Security at Seas.

Stelios Kostalas
Commodore GRC (N)
Commandant NMIOTC



*The Ambassador of the USA in Greece
H.E. Mr Geoffrey Pyatt*



*The Chief of Hellenic Navy General Staff
Vice Admiral Nikolaos Tsounis*



*The Minister of Defence of the Hellenic Republic
Mr Panos Kammenos with the Chief of Hellenic National Defense
General Staff Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis*



Former Commandants of NMIOTC



by Maj Gen Odd Egil Pedersen
 Military Partnerships Directorate (MPD)

Distinguished Guests, Good evening,

I am the Deputy Chief of Staff Partnership and responsible for developing Military Partnership activities together with our 41 partners.

I am situated in Mons, Belgium and have the partners' national representatives in my building.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words to you during the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre, NMIOTC.

The most important activities we do with partners are related to training, exercises, education and evaluations. I am very grateful that Greece took the initiative to establish the Training Centre. This was done in order to address emerging need for enhancement or training in maritime interdiction and security. Let there be no doubt that the need is also recognised by our partners. Several of them have used your facilities. And are now thanks to you qualified to or participating in NATO-led operations and exercises. Throughout the 10 years NMIOTC has provided training to naval units, specialised teams and individuals from 88 nations promoting NATO's initiatives for wide-ranging partnership and cooperation. All of these courses have been developed to fill specific training requirements and gaps between NATO. I would

like to especially mention two of our important partners; Jordan and Georgia. They offered participation in Operation Sea Guardian and they are willing to support us with a boarding team. Since they had limited knowledge and expertise in this matter themselves they asked me if it was possible for us to train the team and make sure it was qualified according to NATO standards. NMIOTC demonstrated great flexibility when you accepted the challenge on conducting all the training in Souda Bay during a compressed time. In conclusion, for me your Training Centre provides effective, efficient and affordable training in an ideal literal environment, delivering just in time day and night training applicable to both armed forces and law enforcement personnel, including our partners, are extremely valuable for us.

Thank you very much. I would also like to say thank you to the nations that support the Training Centre with qualified instructors and staff; Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Italy, Poland, Romania and Turkey. You are all contributing to the maritime security right in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea.

Good luck with your celebrations. I wish I was able to join you but the demands from another important partner have made that impossible. I am in Kiev. Thank you very much.





Sponsoring and Contributing Nations' flags before the Hoist Ceremony



Hoist of the Greek Flag.



From right: The Minister of Defence of the Hellenic Republic Mr Panos Kammenos, Chief of Hellenic National Defense General Staff Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, The Ambassador of the USA in Greece H.E. Mr Geoffrey Pyatt and former Chief of the HNDGS Admiral Panagiotis Chinofotis.



NMIOTC Commandant Commodore Stelios Kostalas GRC N and NMIOTC Personnel



**by Admiral Manfred Nielson
Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation**

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I am Admiral Manfred Nielson the Deputy Allied Commander Transformation. I serve in NATO's home in North America - Norfolk, Virginia.

We at Allied Command Transformation, as NATO's premier warfare development command, work hard to provide the Alliance with cutting edge capabilities and fostering interoperability within NATO.

NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Center with its know-how and impressive achievements over the last 10 years is an integral part of our journey. And I am glad that we are able to continue this journey with Stelios who I have been closely and successfully working with at ACT in the past several years.

The sea (and I do not think that I need to convince anyone in Greece), is the guarantee for wellbeing and prosperity of our nations and their people.

Our interconnected world relies on over 90% of the world's trade be delivered by sea. So there is a close link between the security and stability of the sea and the development of our societies as a whole.

Size and scale of the maritime environment, makes it particularly challenging to prevent efforts to undermine the authority of states in order to conduct illicit actions.

Transnational phenomena such as organised crime, the proliferation of weap-

ons of mass destruction and terrorism, all have a maritime dimension and need to be addressed by all relevant actors in this domain.

You at the NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Center play a central role of NATO's response to these challenges. The Alliance, through the process of the NATO Command Structure Adaptation,



will refocus its efforts in the maritime domain and we count on you to be part of this. The Alliance faces an arc of instability on its southern flank. With the concept of Projecting Stability, we will make “our neighbourhood more stable, so NATO Nations will be more secure!”

To support an effective and efficient projection of stability there is a need to better coordinate the efforts of the Allies and International Organisations that are already providing bilateral initiatives.

A strong maritime Network, with NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Center as ambitious and vibrant member, as a hub for the maritime dimension of projecting stability, will be the key to success on the southern flank.

With its geostrategic position in the Eastern Mediterranean, it is uniquely qualified to be a sensor with the ability to deliver tangible effects.

Projecting Stability will form, along with Deterrence and Defence the bedrock of NATO's strategy to prevent crisis and ensures that the Alliance remains an unparalleled community of freedom, peace and security based on shared values.

The NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Center is an exceptional institution to deliver the alliance with valuable products and training in support of projecting stability right in the heart of the Mediterranean and I really regret not being able to attend this event in person due to other commitments.

From the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, General Andre Lanata, from all of us in the Allied Command Transformation and me personally: CHRONIA POLLA NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Center, PADA EPITYCHIES (Happy many years NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Center, always successful)



NMIOTC acting and former Commandants



VIP group photo



Chief of Hellenic Navy General Staff Vice Admiral Nikolaos Tsounis and Chief of the Hellenic Air Force General Staff, Lieutenant General Christos Christodoulou.



The Minister of Defence of the Hellenic Republic Mr Panos Kammenos, Chief of Hellenic National Defense General Staff Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis and NMIOTC Commandant, Commodore Stelios Kostalas.



by Geoffrey R. Pyatt
U.S. Ambassador to Greece

Καλημέρα, Commodore Kostalas, Minister Kammenos, Admiral Apostolakis, Vice Admiral Tsounis, Lt. Gen Christodoulou, Mayor Vamvoukas, Vice Regional Governor Voulgarakis, U.S., Greek, Allied sailors.

It is a truly great honor for me to be here with you to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the NATO Maritime Interdiction Operations Training Center (NMIOTC), and I want to start by wishing you all, on behalf of the United States, a very sincere Χρόνια Πολλά. I know Capt. Tewell also just celebrated the U.S. Navy's 243rd anniversary, so let me also say happy birthday as to an amazing group of American sailors who keep us safe and advance U.S. interests in this strategically important region.

During his visit to Athens last May, Admiral Jamie Foggo recognized NMIOTC as a center of excellence where people from all over the world come together to train and to improve maritime security. During his visit, there were Greek, Turkish, American, and other partner nation sailors training here at NMIOTC. The center was also hosting the closing ceremonies for a major multinational exercise, Phoenix Express. This facility is a true gem of our NATO partnership, and we are grateful to the Hellenic Armed Forces for hosting it.

NMIOTC supports Greece, our EU and NATO allies and partner nations, through training on defense, security, law enforcement, and counterterrorism.

Over the years, NMIOTC has also helped to build bridges with many nations that are not members of the NATO alliance, including trainees from the Partnership for Peace, Mediterranean Dialogue, and the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative — from countries like Cyprus, Ukraine and Georgia, which share Greece's strong maritime traditions and look at Greece as a natural partner. NMIOTC has also provided an

international forum to discuss issues related to maritime security threats, such as transnational organized crime at sea, and to develop solutions to global security challenges.

NMIOTC is also helping to address the many challenges that Greece faces uniquely because of its geographic location at the meeting points of continents. In this regard, NMIOTC advances the American strategy of engaging Greece as a pillar of regional stability. As I have often said, Greece sits at the nexus of three strategic problem sets. From the east, there is the ongoing Syrian conflict, the threat of Iran, and asymmetric threats from the eastern Mediterranean. To the south, we see ongoing instability, arrival of refugees and other problems emerging from a yet-to-be united Libya, and to the north, Russia continues to threaten our collective security through its illegal annexation of Crimea, militarization of the Black Sea, and malign influence across the western Balkans.



Greece is a key U.S. ally in dealing with all three of these regions. Through its creation of new partnerships, such as trilateral dialogues with Cyprus and Egypt and with Cyprus and Israel, Greece is taking a leadership role that will pay dividends by stabilizing the area, increasing security, and boosting opportunities for economic growth.

Last week, in his public statements before meeting Greek Minister of Defense Panos Kammenos, our Secretary of Defense James Mattis, whom I was proud to see here at NMIOTC in one of the videos, recognized Greece's vital role in maintaining regional security. He expressed our appreciation for Greece's leadership in promoting Balkan stability, citing the Prespes Agreement as an example, and commended Greece's strong investments in its defense capabilities. And, of course, he singled out NSA Souda Bay as the flagship of our defense and security cooperation.

This most recent meeting of our two Ministers of Defense and the honors attended to Minister Kammenos were an important milestone in deepening our bilateral defense relationship, recommitting to our NATO alliance, and shaping our defense and security agenda, as we build on the success of the Thessaloniki International Fair and look ahead to the first U.S.-Greece Strategic Dialogue in December.

So, I am here today to reaffirm what has been a top priority for me since I started as U.S. Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic.

First of all, we are grateful for the depth and strength of our military partnership with Greece, for Greece's continued hosting of Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, its strong commitment to NATO and its fulfillment of its obligations on defense spending, and we are sensitive to the complicated neighborhood where Greece must operate. And, with this in mind, our Embassy team is focused on working with our partners in the Greek government to find opportunities to take this relationship forward and to



identify new and expanded avenues for cooperation.

Last year, for example, Greece contributed tremendously to the success of Atlantic Resolve by enabling a substantial portion of the U.S. Army's 10th Combat Aviation Brigade to enter the European theater through the port of Thessa-

loniki and to depart through Alexandroupolis.

This year, the helicopter movement will be centered at Stefanovikio and will involve more aircraft and soldiers than ever before. This level of cooperation benefits both our countries by improving NATO transit capability, developing flexible alternatives, and providing another expression of our close security cooperation.

Earlier this year, we resumed Alexander the Great, a large-scale joint exercise between our nations' Marines, and we've also begun a temporary deployment of U.S. UAVs at the Hellenic Air Force base in Larissa. So, this is truly a joint effort, involving all our services and the full spectrum of capabilities, a point that I know General Dunford has emphasized in his recent engagements with Admiral Apostolakis.

And the U.S. has also supported Greece's efforts to take on additional NATO missions and to exercise a leadership role in regional security. We are grateful for the fact that Greece, in 2018, increased its footprint in Afghanistan within the NATO-led Resolute Support mission. Thank you for your contingent of advisors to the Afghan Air Force at the Kabul Air Wing.

In June 2018, Greece also sent aircraft to participate in NATO's Air Policing mission over Slovenia and Albania. In Thessaloniki, Greece hosts a NATO Rapid Deployment Corps headquarters combined with its Third Army Corps, which started its tenure as NATO Joint-Command HQ for two years, highlighting northern Greece's strategic significance to the Alliance.

In this context, and here I'll wind up, the NMIOTC is especially important. It trains our militaries in the skills, interoperability and cooperation at sea that is essential among allied and partner-nations. It reflects Greece's strong naval capability and deeply rooted maritime traditions in a way that helps us to navigate challenges that our forces confront. Over the past decade, NMIOTC has grown, evolved, and become more important in response to evolving regional maritime security demands. The next decade will surely present new challenges, but I am confident that NMIOTC's curriculum and training will continue to develop and help prepare the next generation of maritime leaders and sailors. And I am confident that the United States and U.S. forces will remain very strong partners in this regard.

So, congratulations again, on all the good work that you've done these past 10 years, and I wish you 100 more.



Former Chief of the HNDGS Admiral Panagiotis Chinofotis with NMIOTC Commandant



NMIOTC Commandant during his ceremony speech.



**by Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis
Chief of Hellenic National Defense General Staff**

Minister Kammenos
Minister Chinofotis
Your Excellency Ambassador of the US to Greece
Chiefs
Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning,

It is a great pleasure to be here in Souda, together with all of you, to participate in this important celebration, the tenth NMOTC anniversary. Thank you all for coming today, especially to all who travelled from abroad.

Anniversaries are always a bit special and, at the same time, a bit nostalgic. They provide an opportunity to reflect, both on where one has come from and where one is going.

In this context, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to those whose ideas and initiatives made possible the founding of this remarkable training center, and who honor us with their presence here today.

Looking back at the past 10 years, we have much to celebrate.

Since its founding in 2005, when Admiral Chinofotis along with SACEUR and SACT signed the relevant MOU, and the declaration of its final operational capability

in 2008, NMIOTC has done an outstanding job in providing advanced training services to NATO and our partners.

Indeed, its performance has surpassed our expectations. More than seventy countries have already sent their naval units and personnel to attend courses on Maritime Interdiction Operations. Further, NMIOTC accommodates more than one thousand trainees each year.

One of the main reasons for its success is the Center's location, Souda Bay. Indeed, the last decades the Hellenic naval and air force installations in the bay have been instrumental in supporting our allies and partners while deployed in the Mediterranean and beyond or in transit to distant operational theaters. Thus, I can say that, the Center brings together diverse worlds. The capacity training in Africa, the training of Libyan Coast Guard personnel and so many other examples prove it, in the most tangible way.

Another reason is the fact that, as NATO's Strategic Concept and Maritime Strategy stipulates, MIO plays a vital role as a critical enabler on Maritime Security, along with Maritime Situational Awareness.

Maritime Security constitutes a top priority for Greece, considering that the Hellenic Merchant fleet remains the largest in the world in terms of tonnage. Thus, the Hellenic Navy and the Coast Guard safeguard the Freedom of Navigation. The contribution of NMIOTC is fundamental to that end.

Furthermore, let me point out that NMIOTC is the only NATO Educational Training Facility which has been awarded by Allied Command Transformation with unconditional accreditation for its academic standards and the quality of its training services, since 2013. In this respect, and combined with its strong link with MARCOM, the Center meets the Alliance's needs on advanced training in the maritime domain.

Moreover, the Center is a joint Training institution and one of its main charac-





teristics is its multinationality. A great number of countries are participating in its manning. We are waiting more.

However, recognition of its added value and visibility are only one part of NMIOTC's achievements, as many other challenges lay ahead. NMIOTC is on the frontline of training and in order to stay there needs to discover new areas of interest, follow all developments on Maritime Interdiction and seek ways to match them with first rate operational readiness for naval forces. And it does that.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Greece is located in a strategic crossroad and is a reliable actor in the eastern Mediterranean. We are much devoted to stability, security, progress and prosperity at and from the sea. We believe that robust results can only be achieved via collaboration and cooperation with friends and allies, based on the principles of the international law and mutual trust and respect.

The Center is a perfect and profound example of our devotion to collaborate with allies and partners. It is a perfect example that earmarks that the Hellenic Armed Forces are extrovert and have the mindset to develop bonds and bridges instead of breaching them.

The NMIOTC's tenth anniversary is a good time to take stock of how far we have come. But also to consider how far we still need to go, in order to deliver stability in our neighborhood.

Allow me to thank all the people for the inception of the idea, all ex commanders, all those that have supported it.

Closing, let me extend my best wishes to all of you for a pleasant and productive stay in Crete.

Thank you.





Background

After the dramatic increase of terrorist acts during the previous decade, new forms of threats have appeared, whereas the old ones have changed. These new forms are mainly cross-border threats like proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, illicit trafficking, etc. Therefore, collective efforts of the member-states have been required. In this attempt, security issues for the maritime environment, which are carried out through Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO), have also been developed.

One of these was the Operation Active Endeavour (OAE) which was established in the Mediterranean Sea and was initiated in order to deter, defend,



disrupt and protect against terrorist activity.

It was a collective defence operation that, initially only involved NATO member countries until it started accepting non-NATO countries' participation in 2004.

OAE hailed merchant vessels and boarded suspect ships, intervened to rescue civilians on stricken oil rigs and sinking ships and, generally, helped to improve perceptions of security.

NATO ships also systematically carried out preparatory route surveys in "choke" points, as well as in important passages and harbors throughout the Mediterranean.

NATO, responding to these new operational needs and attempting to meet its requirements, had developed new training activities. With this background and in order to fulfill the related training gap the NATO decision to found NMIOTC was taken during the meeting of Defence Ministers of the member states of the Alliance on June 12th 2003.

As a result the Hellenic Navy General Staff created the NMIOTC Foundation Coordination



Office, in November 2005 with the aim to found the Centre and to obtain its definite operational capability.



The same month, the Memorandum of Understanding among the Ministry of National Defence of the Hellenic Republic and the NATO Structure Commands was signed in Brussels. The Memorandum of Understanding determined the Functional Relationship for NMIOTC successful operation as a multinational manned training centre for enhancing NATO's Maritime Interdiction Operations capabilities.

The mission of NMIOTC set by this Memorandum is to conduct the combined training, necessary for NATO forces in order to execute better surface, sub-surface, aerial surveillance and special operations activities supporting Maritime



Interdiction Operations.

On the 18th of December 2007 the MOU regarding the participation in NMIOTC manning, activities and provision of training was signed between the Hellenic Ministry of National Defense and the initial sponsoring Nations: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania and Turkey.

2008

On the 17th of March 2008 the Centre acquired Full Operational Capability. The Official inauguration took place on the 14th of October 2008 at Souda Base, Crete.



In the period leading up to these events, and later on, the Centre consolidated and improved internal organization and its education and training products, and at the same time was committed to make itself widely known.

During the previous decade the terrorist threat increased. Since 2008 the piracy phenomenon at sea was escalated as well.

From the total number of only 10 to 15 incidents in 2004, the waters of the Gulf of Aden saw acts of piracy increasing rapidly to 80 in 2008.



The consequences of the Somali Pirates became more dramatic, more expensive, and more risky to human life. The situation became so serious that the UN Security Council produced a series of resolutions in order to call maritime states to react properly.

UNSC Resolution 1816 in June 2008, authorizing nations to deploy warships for counter-piracy operations in Somali territorial waters.

This was followed by UNSC Resolution 1838, in October 2008, urging all maritime states to dispatch naval units to fight piracy, off the Horn of Africa (HOA).



NATO was very quick to react to the threat posed by piracy in the Gulf of Aden, with Operation Allied Provider, that commenced in October 2008 after the North Atlantic Council (NAC) agreed to the UN Secretary General's request for assistance.

The NATO task force - Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2) - provided close protection to the World Food Programme (WFP) chartered ships and conducted deterrence patrols in the area most susceptible to criminal acts against merchant shipping.

Then from March to August 2009, NATO ran

Operation Allied Protector, a counterpiracy operation, to improve the safety of commercial maritime routes and international navigation off the Horn of Africa. The need was still of high importance that on August 2009 the NAC approved the new Operation Ocean Shield (OOS) focused on at-sea counter-piracy operations off



the Horn of Africa.

It also offered, to regional states that requested it, assistance in developing their own capacity to combat piracy activities. Since the summer of 2008, individuals and units from NATO and Partner nations began to come for training at NMIOTC.

2009

Year by year, the rate of training activities at NMIOTC, grew. During the course of 2009 for example, 22 NATO units and 1 Ukrainian frigate



undertook training at the Center.

In 2009, NMIOTC also participated in the planning and the conduct of MIO related exercises with the involvement of surface units and more than 200 multinational trainees from more than 10 NATO and non-NATO nations.

The same year, the Centre conducted individual



training courses related to Boarding procedure concerning both Command Teams and Boarding Teams. This training was delivered through the courses 1000, (Command Team – Theoretical training), 2000 (BT theoretical issues), 3000 (BT practical issues) and 4000 (Naval Unit Final Training Tactical Exercise – FTX), as well as the pilot Course for Maritime Operational Terminology. During the first year of activity NMIOTC also provided certain education to the Standing NATO Maritime Groups, SNMG1 and SNMG2, prior to their deployment in Operation Ocean Shield. NMIOTC, in the same year, participated with its means and personnel in an experiment, conducted by the United States Naval Post-Graduate School Monterey (NPS), regarding communications architecture for provision of real-time reach back support to the Boarding Team, from ashore, during a suspect ship search.

ACADEMIA	RESEARCH INSTITUTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stellenbosch University South Africa • Coventry University • Plymouth University • Hellenic Naval Academy • National & Kapodestrian University of Athens • Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) USA • Panteion University of Athens • Technological University of Crete • University of the Aegean • University of Crete • University of South Africa / UNISA • World Maritime University / IMO • University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) • George C. Marshall Centre • Greek Atomic Energy Research Centre • Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL) • Arab Institute for security Studies • Centro Studi Internazionali (Ce.Si)

In October NMIOTC conducted a high level seminar on Maritime Interdiction of Weapon of Mass Destruction. The seminar was the first commitment to support the NATO community in promoting and organizing forums for discussions and sharing of knowledge and experience in the

area of Maritime Interdiction Operation related issues.



2010

In 2010, following the previous year seminar on the matter, the new course on Weapon of Mass Destruction in MIO was started.

In the same year the initial team of NMIOTC



Sponsoring Nations was further enriched with the joining of Italy and the assignment of the first Italian officer on September 2010 was fact.

In the following years the training activities have been increased rapidly. The quality and the number of courses have been growing continuously during the first decade of NMIOTC activities. The Centre has been developing a wide spectrum of courses related to MIO.

2011

In 2011 the Centre provided the first resident course on counter piracy upon request of the ship stopped in Souda on her way to the area of operation in the Horn of Africa.

2012

In 2012 the Maritime Chemical, Biological,



Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) detection, identification and control operation field trial was conducted.

2013

In 2013 the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) considerations in Maritime Force



ENCLOSURE 1 TO
5000/TSC TWX 0012/TT9826/Ser: NU0739
DATED: 07 NOVEMBER 2013

Quality Assurance Accreditation Awarded

The NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre required improvements to internal quality assurance processes and procedures were reviewed and identified as quality assurance elements that are aligned with NATO Minimum Quality Assurance Criteria and have qualified for the accreditation award of:

QUALITY ASSURANCE UNCONDITIONAL ACCREDITATION

Certificate No: 5000/TSC TWX 0012/TT9826/Ser: NU 0739
Effective: 07 November 2013 Expires: 07 November 2019

The NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre was found to have:

- a. Sound internal quality assurance systems and procedures for the assurance of quality standards
- b. Procedures are applied effectively at each Depth of Knowledge level to ensure the quality of individual curriculum
- c. Effective and regular processes of reviewing the quality of programmes and the standards of curriculum and implementing and required changes, developments and enhancements
- d. Accurate complete and reliable information about the quality of the institutions programmes and the standards of its curriculum

FOR THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER TRANSFORMATION

Dzintars Roga
Brigadier General, LVA A
Acting Deputy Chief of Staff Joint Force Trainer

protection was initiated.

In November of the same year the center was awarded the QA unconditional accreditation by ACT and was the first NETF that obtained this certification.

2014

In 2014, the course on legal issues in MIO was initiated.



2015

In 2015 both the UK and the US decided to contribute to the NMIOTC efforts, by assigning maritime operations expert officers to the Center, starting from January and July respectively, on a rotational basis.

2016

In 2016, NMIOTC developed the new courses on Autonomous Vessel Protection Detachment, the C-IED considerations in MIO, the MIO in support of international efforts to counter human trafficking activities at sea for Command Team, the Maritime IED disposal, Maritime biometric collection. We also started the Train the Trainers and a module



on “Gender Perspective in Maritime Operations”.

2017

In 2017 the course MIO on support of international efforts to counter migrant smuggling activities at sea – practical issues, Maritime Aspects of Joint Operations and Cyber Security awareness

in Maritime environment were introduced in the Centre.

2018

In 2018 we started the first trial of the course Protection of Critical Maritime Infrastructure, and developed the Medical Combat Care in Maritime Operations and the Managing Insecurities in the Maritime Environment.



In March NMIOTC Sponsoring Nations community was further enriched with the joining of Poland by the assignment of the first Polish officer. Now we are in the final stage of the procedure for Germany to join the centre.

In October 2018 NMIOTC has fulfilled 10 years of training presence and the achievement of recognition inside NATO Structure is apparent.



Future

NMIOTC relying on its 10-year experience will continue to accomplish its mission, to conduct the combined training necessary for NATO and partner nations to support Maritime Interdiction Operations.

As we in NATO are well aware, the Maritime environment is vital for the global community. Oceans connect nations globally through an independent network of financial, social and political relationships.

With this always in mind, we are trying to depict some aspects of the new security environment by providing a dilating approach in the major threats especially occurring in the maritime environment, such as Piracy, Illicit Trafficking of Weapons of Mass Destruction, CBRN, Maritime Improvised Explosive Devices, taking into account all our experience and accumulated knowledge in the field.

All these threats are still countered through the four agreed pillars of the Alliance Maritime Strategy: Deterrence & Collective Defence, Crisis Management, Cooperative Security and Maritime Security.

And all the related operational tasks are linked to the new concept of asymmetric threats. All these tasks are strictly connected to the related training needs of the Navies to which the NMIOTC is fully committed.





*Visit of COMHELFLEET
Vice Admiral I. Pavlopoulos
July 6, 2018*



*Visit of FHQ OP EUNAFORMED "SOPHIA" & C.O. of ITS SAN MARCO
August 31, 2018*



*Port visit of RNS MIRCEA
September 13, 2018*



*Visit of Korean Delegation of ROKS Wang Geon
September 19, 2018*



Lebanon Border Control Concept of Operations Workshop #2, organized and conducted by Defense Threat Reduction Agency September 23-28, 2018



38th Allied Joint Operations Doctrine Working Group October 1-4, 2018



*Visit of Hellenic National Defense College
October 1-5, 2018*



*Visit of NSA Souda Bay Commanding Officer
October 9, 2018*



*ACT's Maritime Information Services Conference
October 16-19, 2018*



*LC2 Capability Requirements Workshop #2
December 4-6, 2018*



Visit of the Deputy Minister of Defense Ms Maria Kollia-Tsaroucha, escorted by the Chief Hellenic Navy General Staff, Vice Admiral Nikolaos Tsounis October 1-5, 2018



Visit of Hellenic Naval Academy December 14, 2018



*Course 14000 Maritime Improvised Explosive Device Disposal
July 2-6, 2018*



*Training of HMS ARGYLL
July 2-5, 2018*



*“Biometrics in Support of Naval Operations to Fight Piracy and Terrorism”
Table Top Exercise
July 3-5, 2018*



*Training of Swedish Boarding Team
August 27 - September 7, 2018*



*Training of GRC Underwater Demolition Team
August 27-31, 2018*



*Training of Border Service of Kazakhstan
September 10-14, 2018*



*Course 8000 C-IED's Considerations in Maritime Force Protection
September 10 - 21, 2018*



*Training of participants of Exercise "NAIAS 2018"
September 14-22, 2018*



*Training of HMS DRAGON
September 25-28, 2018*



*Drafting, Production and Maintenance of NATO Standards Course
October 8-12, 2018*



*Course 18000 Maritime Biometrics Collection and Tactical Forensic Site Exploitation
October 8 - 12, 2018*



*Course 12000 C-IED Considerations in MIO
October 22 - 26, 2018*



*Course 21000 Medical Combat Care in Maritime Operations
November 5-16, 2018*



*Training of the participants of Exercise MEDUSA 2018
November 23 - 26, 2018*

NMIOTC Program of Work 2019 (NPOW 2019)

Month	JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH														
	WK 01	WK 02	WK 03	WK 04	WK 05	WK 06	WK 07	WK 08	WK 09	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	WK 18	WK 19	WK 20	WK 21	WK 22	WK 23	WK 24	WK 25	WK 26	WK 27	WK 28	WK 29
JAN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
FEB																	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
MAR																													
APR																													
MAY																													
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OCT																													
NOV																													
DEC																													



Updated 27 February 2019

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| <p>COURSES (ETOC ID.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Course 1000 - Command Team MIO Issues (MOP-MO-51201) Course 2000 - Boarding Team Theoretical Issues (MOP-MO-51203) Course 3000 - Boarding Team Practical Issues (MOP-MO-41205) Course 5000 - Maritime Operational Terminology Course (MOP-MO-11208) Course 6000 - Weapons of Mass Destruction in MIO (MOP-MO-31209) Course 7000 - MIO in support of Counter Piracy Ops (MOP-MO-41210) Course 8000 - C-IED Considerations in Maritime Force Protection (IED-ED-31679) Course 9000 - Legal Issues in MIO (LGL-LE-31613) Course 10000 - MIO in Support of Countering Illicit Trafficking at Sea (MOP-MO-32012) Course 11000 - AVPD Course (MOP-MO-32011) Course 12000 - MIO in a C-IED (A/N) Maritime Environment (IED-ED-31904) Course 13000 - Command Team Issues in MIO in support of International Efforts to Manage the Migrant and Refugee Crisis at Sea (MOP-MO-3215) Course 14000 - Maritime IED Disposal (IED-ED-32008) Course 15000 - Migrant Handling Team Issues in MIO in support of International Efforts to Manage the Migrant and Refugee Crisis at Sea (Pilot) Course 16000 - Maritime Aspects of Joint Operations (MOP-MO-22078) Course 17000 - Train the Trainers Technical Instructor (ETE-IT-34432) Course 18000 - Maritime Biometrics Collection and Tactical Forensic Site Exploitation (MOP-MO-22373) Course 19000 - Cyber Security Aspects in Maritime Operations (COP-CD-22104) Course 20000 - Protection of Critical Maritime Infrastructure [C(M)] (Pilot) Course 21000 - Medical Combat Care in Maritime Operations (MED-MIS-34411) Course 23000 - WIT Supplement in Maritime Operations (Pilot) | <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> NAB (NMIOTC) Cyber Security Conference NCB (HNGS) NMIOTC Annual Conference NATO Partnerships 360 Symposium Submarine Staff Officers Conference Drafting, Production and Maintenance of NATO Standards Course Submarine Escape and Rescue WG Countering Hybrid Threats Seminar ACO Security Conference 19 OSG FOCOPS In Brief & LLWS CMI TTT Training DA on Site Visit WLF MSK Users Group Bio TMS Czech Rep-Hungary-Poland 20th Year Ceremony CDX-N (Apr 19) | <p>EXERCISES / METTs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ARIADNE 19 METT in PHOENIX EXPRESS 19 METT in KUWAIT - ICI Regional Centre METT in SEA SHIELD 19 LIVEX for the Project Biometrics DAT POW METT in NOBLE DNA 19 METT in IMX 19 METT SEA BREEZE 19 METT BREEZE 19 NIRIUS 19 | <p>TAILORED TRAININGS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> GHA BT AUT BT EDA FRONTEx Training GRC SOF AZE BT DEU BT BEL SF LBY VBSS Training DEU BT HMS DUNKAN |
|---|---|--|---|

■ Training Courses
 ■ Tailored Trainings
 ■ NATO Events
 ■ Conference - Meeting
 ■ Unit Training
 ■ Official Holidays
 ■ Available Period for Training
 ■ Evaluation of Courses / Maintenance

← **NMIOTC**

Diving Area

**Training Platforms
ARIS & ALKYON**

**Additional Training
Ground**

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