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Press Release
28 June 2004

Nato Continues Implementation of New Command Structure

The Allied Maritime Component Command Headquarters Northwood stood up on 01 July, as NATO continues the implementation of a New Command Structure. The Headquarters Allied Naval Forces North was deactivated at midnight on 30 June 2004.

This name change is reflective of the greater transformation taking place in the Alliance, involving changing the organization of military forces, the nature of military culture and doctrine supporting those forces. It is a matter of focussing effort to provide an expeditionary capability, which will more effectively and efficiently meet the complexities of the new threats challenging NATO.

The new structure is already being implemented across the Alliance, and consists of re-organizing the Strategic Commands' areas of responsibility, the creation of two standing Joint Forces Commands in the Netherlands and Italy and a more limited Joint Headquarters in Portugal.

The Headquarters in Northwood is one of the two Maritime Component Commands, which provides expert maritime advice to the Joint Force Commander as part of the planning, conduct and support of maritime aspects of a major joint operation. It also plays an essential role in integrating the new NATO member nations navies, such as Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, into the Alliance Forces.

There are about 280 personnel from 16 NATO nations working in the Headquarters in Northwood. The countries represented are Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Great Britain and the USA.

One of the roles (our first role is to support current operations!) of the Commander Allied Maritime Component Command Northwood, Admiral Sir Jonathon Band KCB, is to support the implementation of the NATO Response Force (NRF), including the provision of maritime advice and support to both the NRF Joint Force Commander and the new High Readiness Forces Maritime Headquarters HRF (M) HQs.

RAdm Charles Style, Commander HRF (M) UK HQ (COMUKMARFOR), commands one of the three NATO HRF (M) HQs. He assumed command of the maritime units of NRF 3 from VAdm Jose A. Martinez Sainz-Rozas, Commander HRF (M) SP HQ (COMSPMARFOR) on 01 July 04. The NATO Response Force will achieve Initial Operational Capability (IOC) in July of this year.

With his staff of about 50 personnel COMUKMARFOR would be able to deploy wherever required to assume command of the maritime component of a within a mission specific-tailored joint force in any scenario.

The NRF will be build around a combined and joint brigade sized unit with matching maritime and aviation capabilities. What makes this unit so remarkable is that in most traditional military structures these capabilities require massive coordination and the involvement of multiple tactical, operational and even strategic headquarters. By creating a standing capability, the Alliance is leaning forward and will be remarkably better poised to react quickly to a whole range of crisis should the Alliance decide to become engaged.

These capabilities include, but are not limited to: Non-Combatant



Allied Maritime Component Command Headquarters Northwood stood up 01 July 2004

*Also ←
C in C Fleet*

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Evacuation Operations, support Humanitarian or Consequence Management Operations, Crisis Response Operations including Peacekeeping, support Counter Terrorism Operations and Embargo Operations.

NOTE TO THE EDITORS:

There will be a Press facility on the 02 July 04 from 0900 – 1040 am in the Northwood Headquarters. Interested media should contact the Public Information Office not later than 01 July 04 in order to provide access to the facility. Journalists will have to be present at the Main Gate at 0850 am to go through security checks prior to the facility.

You will have the opportunity to ask questions to Adm Sir Jonathon Band KCB, RAdm Style and VAdm Ropers (Deputy Commander MCC Northwood) after a general briefing on related issues.

There will be also the opportunity to interview representatives from different nations if media representatives express that in advance.

Additional Notes:

For additional information please contact the Public Information Office:

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CDRUS EUCOM / SACO UR

General James L Jones, USMC 16/11/03 +

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