



EXER MARSEC-2023 (OPEX-CPX)

Maritime Security
Centre of Excellence (MARSEC COE)
İstanbul-TÜRKİYE

www.marseccoe.org



MARSEC COE HISTORY

Maritime Security requires multinational and interagency cooperation achieved only through working together with national, regional, and international Maritime Security organizations, as well as civilian agencies. There are numerous and diverse maritime security related initiatives around the globe, with UN, NATO, EU, AU, IMO among the multitude of Maritime Security-invested stakeholders.

The idea of establishing a Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (COE) stemmed from realization of coordination requirements among government, private sector, industry, and academies for a more secure maritime environment in the region. In accordance with NATO's Smart Defense approach also, Türkiye decided to coordinate and unite these efforts in a hub, in a maritime security related COE.

With this aim, the Multinational Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (MARSEC COE) was officially inaugurated in 2012 in Aksaz Naval Base-Marmaris-Muğla/Türkiye, under the command of Turkish Naval Forces Southern Task Group Command.

Due to its proximity to international airports, universities, and maritime industry, the Centre was relocated to Beylerbeyi/İstanbul in 2017, and later moved to its current location at the Atatürk Wargaming and Convention Centre (AWCC) compound in Turkish National Defense University (NDU) campus, Yenilevent-Beşiktaş/İstanbul in 2018.

On June 8, 2020, the Centre gained the status of "International Military Organization" as the 26th NATO-accredited Centre of Excellence (COE) with the participation of Türkiye (Framework Nation), Greece and Romania (Sponsoring Nations). The agreements for Portugal's joining to MARSEC COE were signed in late December 2021. The Centre expanded in January 2022, welcoming Portugal as its 3rd Sponsoring Nation and 4th Member.

Pertaining to its dedication to the mission and vision as a NATO COE, as of July 8, 2022, the Centre received also the Unconditional Quality Assurance Accreditation by NATO.

For more information about NATO COEs:



EXER MARSEC HISTORY

EXER MARSEC series is a recurring multinational Maritime Security Exercise, held every other year, with a specifically dedicated and tailored scenario environment, to provide advanced training opportunities to participating organizations and staff, striving to enhance interoperability among maritime security related or interested stakeholders (e.g. governmental and civil agencies, military, law enforcement, and international organizations etc.).

EXER MARSEC-2015 (CPX/LIVEX) took place in Naval Base-Aksaz/Marmaris on 21-27 October 2015, with 145 participants from 5 countries; NATO (NSC, ENSEC COE, CJOS COE) Romanian Navy, Qatar CG, Bahrain Navy, as well as Turkish Ministries, Navy and CG. The CPX component consisted of scenarios touching on Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), Irregular Migration, and Marine Pollution issues, whilst during LIVEX participants played Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Defence, and Maritime Terrorism related scenarios.

EXER MARSEC-2018 (CPX) was executed in Naval Warfare Center (NWC)-Gölcük on 5-9 November 2018, with participation of 105 attendants from 18 countries; NATO (Albania, Romania, Spain, Türkiye, UK, USA and SHAPE) and Partnership Countries (Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Georgia, Kuwait, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan). Maritime Terrorism (Hostage Rescue & MEDEVAC), Marine Pollution, Proliferation of WMD, Irregular Migration, and Cyber Attacks were in the main scenario of the exercise.

EXER MARSEC-2021 (CPX) was the first exercise iteration following the Center's NATO accreditation, and took place in the Multinational Joint Warfare Centre (MJWC) at the Atatürk Wargaming and Convention Centre (AWCC) on 13-17 December 2021. The event gathered 115 attendants from 6 countries, representing multiple organizations: NATO (Greece, Romania, Türkiye, USA, JFCNP, MARCOM, NSHQ, NATO MUSIC2, HUMINT COE), Hybrid COE, UKSTRKFOR, and Partner Countries (Algeria and Bahrain). Terrorist usage of unmanned systems in a cyber-threat environment was the mandatory design condition for the Exercise scenario.

EXERCISE MILESTONE

EXER MARSEC-23 MILESTONES

	ACTIVITY	DATE	LOCATION
1	EXPEC Conference (ESC)	17-18 MAY 2022	İstanbul
2	Initial Planning Conference (IPC)	17-18 NOV 2022	İstanbul
3	Main Planning Conference (MPC) & MEL/MIL Strategy WS	13-14 MAR 2023	İstanbul
4	Final Coordination Conference (FCC) & MIL Scripting WS	7-9 JUN 2023	İstanbul
5	EXER MARSEC-2023 OPEX	09-15 October 2023 Travel (MUS Transportation) , MOC(Maritime Operational Center) Set-up, Experimentation Enhancement, Force Integration 16 October 2023 Force Integration and Pre-sail Conference 17-19 October 2023 OperationAL Experimentation (OPEX) 20 October 2023 Hot Wash-up	Antalya
5	EXER MARSEC-2023 CPX	15-24 NOV 2023	İstanbul

EXER MARSEC CPX PROGRAM

AUTUMN 2023 / ISTANBUL

1	Foundational Training and CR Planning	15-17 NOV 2023
2	Execution (CPX)	20-23 NOV 2023
3	After Action Review (AAR)	24 NOV 2023

EXERCISE AIM

EXER MARSEC-23 is specifically designed to:

- a) Improve cooperation, collaboration and awareness among Maritime Security stakeholders (e.g. governmental and civilian agencies, military, law enforcement, and international organizations etc.);
- b) Exercise Maritime Operation Center (MOC) response and decision-making in Maritime Security Operations (MSO) environments;
- c) Exercise conducting a collaborative MSO between an AOI/JOA maritime security architecture (Yaoundé Architecture for Maritime Safety and Security [YAMS]) together with an out-of-region multinational force;
- d) Exercise maritime security practice, increasing thus awareness to maritime security threats and vulnerabilities, and generating mutual understanding between the stakeholders in the maritime environment;
- e) Help in developing leading guidelines on multinational and multiagency engagement for addressing Maritime Security challenges in a wide and entangled spectrum of situations;
- f) Allow for bridging together maritime security thinking towards a more common mentality;
- g) Contribute to development of Maritime Security (MARSEC) related concepts through experimentation (OPEX).

TARGET AUDIENCE

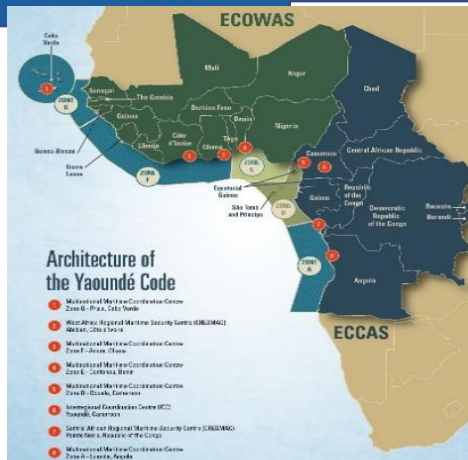
Yaoundé Architecture for Maritime Safety and Security (YAMS)

NATO Allies

NATO Partners (EAPC, ICI, MD, PatG) and AU.

Gulf of Guinea (GoG) Countries

Maritime Security related IOs/NGOs



EXERCISE OBJECTIVES

OPERATIONAL LEVEL:

- Train building and operationalizing robust, wide-covering, comprehensive MSA as enabler for maritime security, through early identification, pattern of life (POL) development, and on point action.
- Train employment of regional cooperation for securing Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) and harbors, culminating in cooperative actions between maritime security actors, in a wide spectrum of maritime security threats (e.g. smuggling, piracy and robbery at sea, IUU fishing etc.);
- Train establishing/maintaining initiative and pro-active approach to addressing maritime security threats/securing the AOI/JOA, in utilizing MSA.
- Train awareness to the usage and impact of Earth-observation space systems as potentially game changing MSA elements.
- Practice and improve efficacy of horizontal information sharing in MSA, based on the need to share. Train in identifying need to share situations.
- Exercise civil military interaction (CMI) and civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) in MSO, for increased effect and reduced unwanted outcomes.
- Train contributions to maritime security and decision-making processes in response to various maritime security issues, in a cooperative paradigm.
- Train situational awareness under a comprehensive understanding approach, taking into account multi-perspective sensibilities like cultural, social, gender etc., for basing/augmenting decision-making and actions;
- Train awareness to perspectives in maritime security and for improving mutual understanding among the participants of various nations/command/organizations.

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