Experience Brief
EU OPS ATALANTA
22 Oct 2012

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NAVTRACK

Aim: sharing personal experience with embedded media during operation ATALANTA

1. Setting the scene
2. Good Preparations
3. Managing Expectations
4. Experience & ‘good practices’
5. Questions
Setting the scene
ATALANTA MISSION STATEMENT

- Escort UN World Food Program and other vulnerable shipping
  Result: Not a single escorted ship hijacked

- Deter and disrupt piracy
  Result: steep decline in piracy activity

- Monitor Fishing Activities
  Result: mapping of fishing activities
Setting the scene
F931 Louise-Marie – HoA

Former Dutch Frigate
Apr 2009
Koningin Paola
Sint-Niklaas

Crew 170
- Bilingual unit
- Joint & 1 civilian
- Mixed gender
- Dutch - DJI
2 months in area
Good Preparations

- Volunteers only & good condition (sea sickness)
- ‘Amarinage’ for embedded press prior to embarkation
  - Naval Training Centre near Bruges
  - Basic Skills
  - Do’s and don’t’s

- Crew preparation
  - Media training
  - Public Affairs Officer
  - Crew awareness

- Prepare a program for the media
Managing Expectations

- Limited Living Space (soccerfield)
- Little Privacy

- SAFETY at sea is every one's concern
- Daily Ship's routine
- No smoking
Experience & ‘good practices’

• Avoid frustration & misunderstandings by agreeing upon some basic rules
  – Safety always comes first
  – Daily coordination meeting CO – journalists
  – All filming is allowed, but CO has final say in release of footage (VRT News – koppen)
  – Screening of texts (GvA – P-magazine)
  – Examples – video ‘koppen’

• Explain what is happening & provide context

• Presence of personnel DGCOM very helpful

• Take part in the ships’ life
  – Get a feel for living & working at sea
  – Gain crew’s trust
Questions?
F931 Louise-Marie

1. Timeline
   a. ATALANTA I: Aug – Dec 2009
   b. PDT ATALANTA II: (May – Jun) + (Aug – Sept) 2010
   c. Summer Leave: Jul
   d. ATALANTA II: 04 Okt – 07 Feb 2011 (4 months in total)

2. Composition of the Force
   a. LOMA + Alo III
   b. VPD team (6 Pathfinders) – incl BT and FP
   c. Diving module (2 Combat Divers) – incl BT and FP
   d. Med Role 1+ (2+2 pax – monthly rotation)
   e. LEGAD (approx 6 weeks)
   f. RMO (2 months)
   g. Interpreter (DJI Navy)
Total distance sailed:

During Atalanta: **19391** NM

Zeebr.-Zeebr.: **28324** NM

(Equator: **21600** NM)