



NURC

a NATO Research Centre
un Centre de Recherche de l'OTAN



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NRV ALLIANCE to Visit Istanbul, Constanta and Varna

The NATO Research Vessel (NRV) ALLIANCE will be making port calls at Istanbul, Constanta and Varna during a research cruise under the NATO Undersea Research Centre (NURC) to study factors supporting the safety of maritime operations/shipping, and environmental monitoring and protection. The research cruise is being conducted in the Black Sea, Marmara Sea and Aegean Sea, and is the culmination of planning that began in late 2006, in collaboration with the Office of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography of the Turkish Navy.

The objective of the cruise, named TSS-08, is to study and model complex marine environments in real-time, in order to support various maritime operations including ship security, safe navigation, and environmental monitoring and prediction. The Black Sea, Marmara Sea and Aegean Sea are unique locations for collecting data on littoral zones with heavy ship traffic and dense coastal populations. These locations also feature complex oceanographic conditions due to the geophysical nature of the region. Researchers will collect data for real-time predictions of oceanographic conditions where short temporal and spatial scales are important for accurate modelling.

NURC is coordinating a large number of research agencies who are involved in this cruise. The extensive international collaboration includes partners from laboratories in Italy, Turkey, United States and researchers from sponsored European Union programmes. The diverse scientific expertise and advanced equipment used to monitor the highly complex straits system, and to produce systematic measurements, make TSS-08 one of the most comprehensive research cruises in this region over the last decades.

The participating institutions include: the Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale (OGS) and Ente per le Nuove Tecnologie, l'Energia e l'Ambiente (ENEA) from Italy, the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and University of Miami from the United States, The Turkish Navy Hydrographic Office (ONHO), Middle East Technical University (METU), University of Istanbul (IU), Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University and Dokuz Eylul University (DEU) from Turkey.

NURC is a NATO research organisation working to enable NATO member nations to better protect their waters, ports, harbours and coastlines. The results of NURC's research supports NATO nations' ability to conduct successful operations in defence against threats and/or for maritime safety. NURC has been conducting scientific experiments in the areas of the Black Sea, Marmara Sea and Aegean Sea for decades without incident. NURC scientists follow

strict guidelines to prevent adverse impact on the environment, especially marine mammals. The scientist in charge of the cruise is experienced in managing sea trials.

NRV ALLIANCE is one of the most capable undersea research platforms at sea today and possibly the quietest motor vessel afloat. She is unique in being one of only two ships owned jointly by member nations of NATO. NRV ALLIANCE has the status of a public vessel of the Federal Republic of Germany and flies the German republic flag. The vessel is assigned to NURC, under NATO's Allied Command Transformation. NRV ALLIANCE enables scientists from the Centre and partner institutions to conduct a wide range of experiments in all the oceans of importance to NATO.



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