



EXER MARSEC-25 (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, ASEAN, 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 academia for a more secure maritime environment in the region. In accordance with NATO's Smart Defence 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 Defence 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 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 biennially and providing 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 and law enforcement, 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 Centre (NWC)-Gölcük on 05-09 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 part of the Exercise's scenario.

EXER MARSEC-21 (CPX) was the first exercise iteration following the Centre'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.

EXER MARSEC HISTORY

EXER MARSEC-23 (OPEX-CPX) was the second iteration following the Centre's NATO accreditation, and took place at the MJWC on the premises of AWCC, on 15-24 November 2023, with the OPEX component taking place in Antalya Bay one month earlier. The CPX gathered 100+ participants from 35 different organizations and across 15 nationalities. Among them, Yaoundé Architecture for Maritime Security - YAMS (ICC, CRESMAC, CRESMAO, MMCC Zone D, MMCC Zone E), navies (Greece, Egypt, Indonesia, Romania, Türkiye), Turkish Coast Guard, Centres of Excellence and training centres (MARSEC COE, CJOS COE, NMIOTC, Hybrid COE), academia (Turkish National Defence University, Galatasaray University, Istanbul University, US Naval Postgraduate School). The Exercise provided a realistic training environment challenging the audiences in a scenario that saw an out of region multinational force cooperate and collaborate with the Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre (MMCC) Zone D of Yaoundé Architecture for Maritime Security in a Joint Operations Area (JOA), for addressing piracy and armed robbery events, instances of IUU fishing, smuggling, trafficking, and various types of migration, maritime terrorism activities, pollution at sea incidents, and negative perception to maritime security operations in the JOA by the local populations.

EXER MARSEC-25 (CPX) sets its sights on the South-East Asia Region, and more specifically on the Malacca Strait and its approaches, in a bid to provide a topical training event for regional stakeholders and those beyond it. In line with previous iterations, the envisioned Exercise would take the shape of a Command Post Exercise augmented by modelling and simulation and other software tools (CAX-augmented). Given the increasing interest space-based remote sensing technologies present for Maritime Security Awareness (MSA) and Maritime Security Operations (MSO), this segment will also be represented in the scenario, along with usage of Maritime Unmanned Systems (MUS). The scenario will cover themes of interest for the regional Partners and would weigh-in their views and expertise, ensuring thus the quality and the relevance of training equally for the regional participants and those joining from beyond the region. An OPEX component may take place, if required, details to be later determined.

EXERCISE MILESTONE

EXER MARSEC-25 MILESTONES

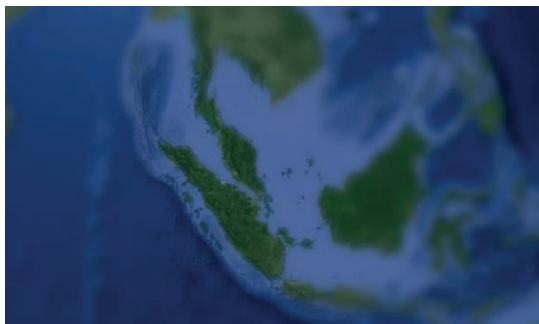
	ACTIVITY	DATE	LOCATION
1	Exercise Specification Conference (ESC)	11-12 June 2024	İstanbul
2	Initial Planning Conference (IPC)	03-04 October 2024	İstanbul
3	Main Planning Conference (MPC) & MEL Strategy WS	13-14 March 2025	İstanbul
4	Final Coordination Conference (FCC) & MIL Scripting WS	11-13 June 2025	İstanbul
5	EXER MARSEC-25 OPEX - TBD	TBD	TBD
6	EXER MARSEC-25 CAX-CPX	October 2025	İstanbul

EXERCISE AIMS

EXER MARSEC-25 is specifically designed to:

- a) Bring together maritime security communities of practice, help build confidence, and foster bridging of maritime security thinking across regions;
- b) Contribute to enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation in maritime security and increasing awareness to maritime security threats and vulnerabilities;
- c) Build knowledge and expertise for MSA, MSO, guidelines on multinational interagency addressing of maritime security challenges, and maritime security practice;
- d) Exercise decision-making processes and test ad-hoc teamwork in critical maritime security situations, in a safe-to-fail environment;
- e) Train multiagency, multinational staff in MSO processes and activities specific for interagency Maritime Operations Centres (MOCs), underlining information sharing and coordinated/collaborative actions at sea, in a dedicated scenario rendering the spectrum of maritime security challenges present in wider Malacca Strait region;
- f) Validate C2 and experimental CONOPS for utilization of space-based MSA and MUS in MSO, and support other applicable experimentation events.

TARGET AUDIENCE



EXER MARSEC-25 welcomes participation of Nations and Organizations interested and/or invested in Maritime Security, especially relevant for the Malacca Strait and the wider South-East Asia Region, but not limited to.

Specifically, EXER MARSEC-23 welcomes participations of maritime security stakeholders from:

Malacca Strait Regional Countries

NATO Allies

NATO Partners

ASEAN Countries

AU Countries

EU Countries

Maritime Security related

International/Non-Governmental
Organizations (IOs/NGOs)

Regardless, given stated objectives and aims, extended participation from outside the focus region is encouraged and beneficial.

“Working Together for Maritime Security”

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