



EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

Chairman's E - Newsletter
Issue n. 12, December 2014



@patderous

Don't miss our interview at page 2

Message from the Chairman



This has been a fruitful year for the EU Common Security and Defence Policy as the endorsed roadmap set at the December 2013 EU Council, has started being implemented in close cooperation with Member States.

But reflection is not just about looking back. I am looking ahead to the deliverables due next June and beyond.

I will take this opportunity to remember those who through doing their duty cannot be at home for Christmas or New Year's Eve, and especially at this time of year we think of the men and women serving overseas in our missions and operations.

We are forever grateful to all those who put themselves at risk to keep us safe.

Season's greetings to you all.

General Patrick de Rousiers

SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

The growing use of satellite communications provides military commanders on operations and government officials, responding to a local emergency, with essential access to voice and broadband data, where and when they need it.

In the military domain in particular, the improving of existing capabilities in the use of satellite communications facilitates truly integrated C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) capability.

Further, satellites offer an ideal form of communications links for unmanned aircraft as they provide global coverage.

The future generation of commonly known **MALE** (Medium Altitude, Long Endurance) rely on dedicated high bandwidth satellite communications links for both command and control and sensory data, and will require a big amount of bandwidth for their full motion videos.

Member States' have generally their own fleet of governmental satellites, to supply the military demand and augment capacity by leasing commercial bandwidth to satisfy requirements for voice, data and video services.



All this has increased operational agility, enabling European militaries to match the changing face of operations, which have increased the depth and breadth of their geographical outreach.

In this light at the **December 2013 EU Council**, Ministers have accepted EU's global role as a security provider. This means an expanded presence into varied geographies which requires inter alia new platforms and sensors and increased satellite communications.

Currently, five European nations operate military satellite communication assets: France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom.

In the timeframe 2018-2025 all these assets will need to be replaced. Because of rising **costs** and shrinking budgets, this creates a unique opportunity for **Pooling & Sharing** of governmental satellite communication.

On the other hand, space technologies are often common between security and defence applications. As a matter of fact, SATCOM enable government to provide first responders with resilient network communications in emergencies, and to manage border security and civil contingencies. They also play an integral part in the future European air traffic management (ATM) infrastructure and the European Space Agency (ESA) projects.

This is likely to further emphasize the need for interoperable and robust, yet also adaptable, SATCOM systems and services over the coming years in support of cost-effective development of the collaborative technical solutions envisaged at December 2013 EU Council.

Space assets, therefore, can make a significant contribution to increasing the security of European citizens. To do so, Europe has, in a user-driven approach, improved coordination between defence and civilian space programs, pursuing in particular the synergies in the domain of security, whilst respecting the specific requirements of both sectors and the independent decision competences and financing schemes. In this respect, cooperation is also being pursued with the Commission and the European Space Agency (ESA).

The defence user requirement for the next generation of Governmental Satellite Communications was endorsed by the European Defence Agency Steering Board on 4 November 2014.

This will lead to the Program Preparation Phase of a potential future **cooperative program**, to be completed by the end of 2016 under the lead of Spain.

Col Giovanni Ramunno

In this issue:

1. The cover story takes us to EU Satellite Communication.
2. The newsletter also presents the European Operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA.



COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES:

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY OPERATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DETERRENCE, PREVENTION AND REPRESSION OF ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY OFF THE SOMALI COAST (EUNAVFOR ATALANTA)

In this issue we provide an insight into the EU Naval Force Somalia, Operation Atalanta and interviewed Major General Martin Smith MBE, who is the Operation Commander.



Could you explain the role of the EU Naval Force?

EU Naval Force was launched on 8th December 2008 following a surge in piracy incidents in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean. These incidents were having a significant impact, not only on international trade and maritime shipping, they were also raising real concerns about the safe delivery of aid to the Somali people, who were suffering from severe food shortages and drought. So the UN, with Security Council Resolutions in place, requested assistance from the EU, and following a Council decision,

Operation Atalanta was launched 10 weeks later. EU Naval Force warships, assisted by MPRAs, conduct intelligence-led operations to patrol the sea areas where the greatest risk from piracy exists. We coordinate our efforts with the other counter-piracy Task Forces from NATO and CMF, as well as warships from independent navies, such as China, Japan and South Korea. Operation Atalanta's mandate was recently extended to December 2016. Whilst our focus is still very much on the protection of WFP

vessels and the disruption and repression of piracy off the Somali coast, we can now, when requested to do so and within existing means and capabilities, contribute more widely to the EU's comprehensive approach that is helping to address the root causes of piracy. Specifically, Operation Atalanta is able to provide additional logistical support and maritime expertise to EUCAP Nestor and the EU training mission (EUTM) Somalia.



What drives you to achieve your objectives?

My absolute focus is to deny pirate action groups the opportunity to get out to sea and attack merchant ships and dhows. Pirates have caused untold misery to hundreds of captured seafarers, not to mention the distress and financial burden placed on their families. They have also cost the international community billions of Euros in lost revenue and higher insurance premiums. As the pirates' business model is fractured, not broken, it is crucial that we do not become complacent to the on-going threat.

What are your biggest accomplishments?

I see the biggest accomplishment of the EU Naval Force is our significant contribution to the drop in piracy over the past two years. In January 2011, 736 hostages and 32 ships were being held for ransom. As I speak to you today those figures are 30 hostages and no ships held. Of course, that is still 30 hostages too many, and we hope that they will all be able to return home soon. I am also proud of the teams at sea who are working tirelessly to build up mutual trust and understanding with local seafarers. When our sailors and marines talk to local fishermen, they say how much they appreciate the efforts of counter-piracy forces to keep them safe. I also see the successful cooperation between the EU missions in the region as a real achievement. By working together we are helping to address the root causes of piracy and also aiding regional forces to one day police their own waters.

Chairman EUMC Communication office

Captain (Navy) Anne de Mazieux - anne.de-mazieux@ext.eeas.europa.eu
Colonel Giovanni Ramunno - giovanni.ramunno@eeas.europa.eu

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the author and do not represent the official position of the European Union Military Committee or the single Member States' Chiefs of Defence.



Think green, do not print this mail unless you really have to

Follow us on:

