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Ukrainian Armed Forces captured an Iranian Mohajer-6 drone used by the Russian military (Photo)



The Ukrainian Armed Forces have unveiled an Iranian-made unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), the Mohajer-6, which they claim was captured from the Russian military. This drone was intercepted by the Ukrainian Armed Forces over the Black Sea in September.

The Ukrainian military posted a photo of an Iranian-made drone allegedly used by the Russian military to attack Ukrainian cities. "On September 23, anti-aircraft units of the Air Force Command" South "of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine shot down the Iranian-made "Mohajer-6" multi-role attack UAV," the military said. The multi-role UAV "Mohajer-6" is designed to carry out reconnaissance, surveillance and attack missions. In a message posted on Twitter on Monday, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry showed a picture of a Mohajer-6 attack drone equipped with Ghaem-5 guided munitions. This drone has a wingspan of 10 meters and a length of 7 meters. Maximum flight speed is 200 km/h, flight time is 12 hours and maximum flight altitude is 5,400 metres. In late August, the United States reported that Russia had received Iranian combat drones that it could deploy on the battlefield in Ukraine. In recent weeks, Russian forces have used Iranian-made unmanned aerial vehicles to attack the Odessa, Mykolaiv and Dnipro regions. It is worth noting that previously the Iranian ambassador to Ukraine denied supplying unmanned aerial vehicles to Russia. Tehran had previously stated that Iran would not help any of the parties involved in the war, as it supports its resolution through dialogue. According to The Kyiv Independent, Ukraine has decided to withdraw the Iranian ambassador's accreditation and significantly reduce the diplomatic staff of the Iranian embassy in Kiev in response to Russian forces using Iranian drones to attack Ukraine.

https://www.defenseromania.ro/militarii-ucraineni-au-capturat-o-drona-iraniana-folosita-de-armata-rusa-foto_618580.html

Europe's show of force: An MBDA 5th generation Akeron missile hits a target beyond the visible horizon line

The launch of an MBDA-produced 5th generation Akeron MP missile from a 4x4 Sherpa armoured vehicle. Photo: Ministry of Defence of Cyprus



European giant MBDA has successfully test-fired a 5th generation Akeron MP missile to a target beyond the visible horizon using a drone system. In November last year MBDA successfully tested in a first phase the capabilities of the LynKEUs programme, whereby an Akeron MP missile develops the ability to hit a target beyond line-of-sight.

In the first test in France, targeting information was provided by an NX70 drone developed by Novadem. The French industry announced at the time that the next step was to integrate the system on a Sherpa 4x4 armoured vehicle developed by the French company Arquus.

And this has already happened.

The European MBDA consortium, together with the defence ministries of France, Cyprus, Belgium, Sweden and Luxembourg, as well as industrial partners in those countries, have successfully tested the launch of an Akeron MP missile at a target beyond the visible horizon in direct coordination with a mini drone. The test took place in Cyprus and the announcement was made by Charalambos Petrides, the Cypriot Defence Minister, in a Twitter post. The senior Cypriot official confirmed that the test was a success and gave assurances that Cyprus "will continue to support the efforts of the national industry to develop modern defence capabilities". About the missile MBDA produced missile - Akeron MP, 5th generation, the only proven combat missile in its class. The Akeron weighs only 15 kilograms, is 1.3 metres long and 140 mm in diameter, and has a range of over 4,000 m, regardless of weather conditions. Although the Akeron is essentially an anti-tank missile, it can also be used as an anti-personnel and anti-vehicle missile. The difference between the Akeron MP and the Akeron LP is only the range. The Akeron LP, a version that would also be integrated on helicopters or drones, is under development. The Akeron will also be integrated into the giant French Scorpion programme which is developing Grifon and Jaguar armoured vehicles and which will also have an important component on the purchase of 4x4 armoured vehicles for the French army. Both Akeron MP and Akeron LP missiles will be integrated by MBDA into the LynKEUs programme. The LynKEUs programme represents a technological and industrial first. The programme is led by MBDA and is part of the European PESCO initiative. It is based on industrial cooperation between partners to develop capabilities at the highest level. Thus, the MBDA-led programme brings together big names in the defence industry from several countries, such as France, Belgium and Cyprus.

https://www.defenseromania.ro/demonstratie-de-forta-a-europei-o-racheta-akeron-de-generatia-a-v-a-a-mbda-a-lovit-o-tinta-dincolo-de-linia-orizontalului-vizibil_618572.html

Ukraine wants ATACMS missiles for HIMARS that strike at 300 km and is willing to give the US full control over Russian targets



Photo: HIMARS, facebook/US Army

The Ukrainian government has offered the United States full and permanent control over Russian targets in an effort to obtain ATACMS systems. Meanwhile, the US has announced a new military aid package, which will include 4 more HIMARS. HIMARS systems have proven effective in cutting Russian supply lines, destroying ammunition depots, bridges, rail links and troop concentrations far beyond the lines, but Kiev is pushing back and asking the Americans for ATACMS systems capable of hitting targets up to 300 km away. CNN quotes several officials familiar with the talks as saying that the Ukrainians are willing to basically give the US veto power over Ukraine's selection of Russian targets. It is also meant to convince the US administration that providing critical weapons would not lead to strikes inside Russian territory.

However, such a move could fuel Kremlin propaganda, which will interpret the situation in the familiar style. Moscow can't wait for a reason to say that, in fact, the United States decides which Russian targets to hit. Long-range ATACMS missiles would allow Ukraine to exceed a strike range of 70-80 kilometres, which is currently the maximum range for the M-142 HIMARS and M-270 multiple-launch missile systems in service with the Ukrainian Armed Forces. ATACMS in the M-48 and M-57 modifications can hit targets up to 300 kilometres away. Earlier, Jake Sullivan, the US president's national security adviser, said Washington is not prepared to provide Ukraine with ATACMS missiles for HIMARS, despite assurances from Ukrainian officials that they will not attack targets on Russian Federation territory. ***

The Biden administration's next security assistance package for Ukraine is expected to include 4 HIMARS, ammunition and other equipment in a new \$650 million package, scire Reuters. The Americans also announced in late September that they would send 18 new HIMARS and 12 Titan systems.

According to the AP, the \$1.1 billion package includes funding for 18 HIMARS and ammunition for them, as well as 12 Titan systems to counter UAVs, about 300 vehicles, dozens of trucks and trailers to transport heavy equipment, radars, communications and surveillance equipment, etc. But unlike the 16 HIMARS, taken from the US military's own stockpile and sent to Ukraine over the summer, these new weapons will be ordered from the

manufacturer, Lockheed Martin, and will take "several years" to deliver, a senior Defense Department official said, the NYT reports. US commanders have expressed concern that if the US immediately sends more HIMARS vehicles, the Ukrainians will burn through ammunition for the Pentagon-supplied missiles too quickly, jeopardizing the US military's readiness in the coming months.

In total, the United States has provided about \$16.9 billion in military aid to Ukraine to fight Russia.

https://www.defenseromania.ro/ucraina-ofera-sua-un-veto-asupra-tintelor-rusesti-totul-pentru-a-primi-sisteme-atacma-masura-ar-putea-da-apa-la-moara-propagandei-kremlinului_618569.html

Russia responds by hitting Ukraine again with Iskander missiles - "impossible to shoot down" (Video). Deployment of the systems in Kaliningrad as well

Iskander missile launches by the Russian Federation, photo: video capture Russian Defence Ministry



The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation has published images of Iskander system launches towards Ukraine, and at the same time the press service of the Russian Baltic Sea Fleet (FRMB) reported that on 03.10.2022, at a training range in the Kaliningrad Region, the execution of a tactical exercise with the missile brigade equipped with Iskander-M operational-tactical complexes began.

According to the Tass news agency, which publishes a video posted by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, the Russian armed forces have again launched Iskander missiles towards "Ukraine's military infrastructure".

In the video footage shown by the Russians, one of the military operators tells journalists that the launched missiles are "impossible to shoot down". It should be noted that after a "pause" in which the Russian armed forces stopped launching Iskanders or Kalibr missiles at targets in Ukraine, the Russians resumed attacks with modern missiles. The price of an Iskander missile is around 3 million euros. The Russians have also deployed Iskanders in Kaliningrad. At the same time, as part of exercises, the Russian Federation has also deployed Iskander in Kaliningrad. "In the Kaliningrad Region, in one of the FRMB's polygons, the deployment of a tactical exercise of the large missile unit equipped with Iskander-M operational-tactical missile complexes has begun," reads a fleet press release, picked up by Tass and Interfax agencies. As part of the exercise, the crews of Iskander-M complexes conducted a march in the indicated district, during which they repelled attacks by the conventional adversary's scout-diversion groups, carried out anti-air defence missions and

overran portions of contaminated terrain. "The missile complex crews will continue to carry out missions on repeated change of starting positions, missile loading on launch facilities and execute electronic missile launches on critically important targets of the adversary," Press Service representatives said. About 100 military personnel and 20 special military technical units are participating in the exercise.

About Iskander-M systems

The Iskander-M operational-tactical missile complexes are intended for the destruction of the adversary's missile complexes and multiple reactive missile launchers at distances of up to 500 kilometres, as well as command points and communication centres or aircraft and helicopters on airfields. Author's comment: The 152nd Missile Brigade - Chernyakhovsk is part of the 11th Army Corps - Kaliningrad of the Coastal Defence Troops of the MBRF. It is equipped with 12 launchers (9P78-1) of the Iskander-M missile complex (9K720), distributed in three missile divisions. Each division includes two missile batteries, with two launchers and two transport and reloading machines (9T250). The brigade also includes 11 command and staff machines (9S552), 14 personnel handling machines, one information processing point (9S920), one technical service machine and nine R-145BM vehicles. The Iskander-M operational-tactical missile complexes employ at least seven types of missiles, including the 9M723 ballistic missile and the 9M728 and 9M729 cruise missiles. Missiles of this type are used extensively by the Russian side during the conflict with Ukraine. It is likely that the ongoing exercise in the Kaliningrad Region is aimed at displaying force and deterring possible actions by NATO forces in the Baltic Sea area.

https://www.defenseromania.ro/rusia-raspunde-lovind-din-nou-ucraina-cu-iskander-imposibil-de-doborat-video-desfasurare-a-sistemelor-si-in-kaliningrad_618567.html

Ukraine's armed forces hit HIMARS MLRS on Antonovsky bridge, some of the missiles were intercepted



Ukrainian armed formations have struck another blow on the Antonovsky bridge in Herson. According to the city administration, the shelling was carried out from the American MLRS HIMARS.

The Antonovsky Bridge connects the left bank of Herson with the right bank of the Dnieper. This structure has long been a target for Ukrainian artillery and the MLRS, Kiev set the task of bringing the bridge to a non-operational state to prevent the transfer of Russian troops to the left bank. The bridge is permanently under fire, the bridge deck has suffered severe damage, precluding passage, but the bridge supports are still intact, no hits on them have been observed.

This time, the Armed Forces of Ukraine fired six HIMARS MLRS shells at the bridge, three rockets were intercepted by Russian air defence systems and the other three still hit the

bridge area. So far, there are no reports of damage and no people have been injured. The enemy continues to fire at civilian targets in the city of Herson, so at 16:40 the criminal regime in Kiev fired six HIMARS missiles at the Antonovsky bridge, three were shot down and three hit the bridge area, according to preliminary information, there were no casualties there

It is suggested that the Armed Forces of Ukraine will increase the number of strikes on the Antonovsky bridge amid the offensive that has begun in the direction of Nova Kakhovka, in order to exclude the option of transferring Russian troops to leave Crimea. In Kiev, they understand that soon Russia will bring in reserves, the preparation and coordination of which is completed, therefore they are trying to take the most advantageous positions before the counterattack and prevent the advance of the Russian Armed Forces, including by destroying the bridges.

<https://topwar.ru/202843-vs-u-nanesli-udar-rszo-himars-po-antonovskomu-mostu-chast-raket-udalos-perehvatit.html>

Poland has again called for the deployment of US nuclear weapons on its territory



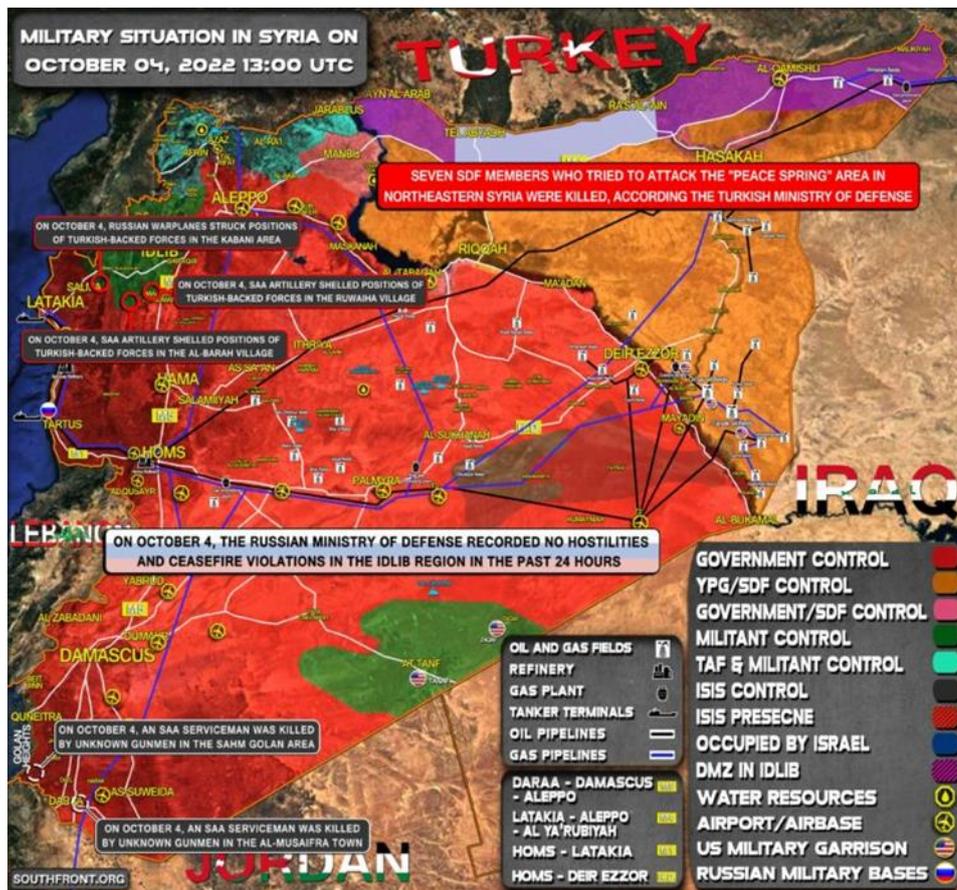
Poland has called for the deployment of nuclear weapons, preferably American, on its territory. Jarosław Kaczyński, leader of Poland's ruling Law and Justice party, said the republic plans to join NATO's nuclear sharing programme.

Kaczyński backed the proposal for Poland to join the nuclear sharing programme. Participants in the programme deploy and store US nuclear weapons on their territory. Countries that do not have their own nuclear arsenal are given the right not only to place it on their territory, but also to participate in exercises on its use and planning. This is the programme that Poland wants to join in order to have access to American nuclear bombs. Moreover, President Andrzej Duda is also in favour of deploying nuclear weapons on Polish territory. However, the question is not so simple, Poland has already approached the Americans with this question several times, but each time it has been refused. According to Kaczyński, he doesn't know how things stand now with this programme, but if Washington gives permission, then he is in favour with both hands. If the President has information that I don't have, that the way is open, then I fully support that, I think it's a very good decision. In June this year, a member of the European Parliament, former Polish Foreign Minister

Radoslaw Sikorski called on the West, primarily the United States, to arm the Kiev regime with nuclear weapons. He said more nuclear warheads could strengthen Ukraine's defence capability and guarantee "protection from Russia".

<https://topwar.ru/202846-polsha-v-ocherednoj-raz-vystupila-za-razmeschenie-na-svoej-territorii-jadernogo-oruzhija-ssha.html>

MILITARY SITUATION IN SYRIA ON 4 OCTOBER 2022 (MAP UPDATE)



Military situation in Syria on 4 October 2022 (map update)

On 4 October, the Russian Defence Ministry recorded no hostilities and no ceasefire violations in the Idlib region in the past 24 hours;

Seven members of the SDF who attempted to attack the "Spring of Peace" area in northeastern Syria were killed, according to the Turkish Defense Ministry;

On 4 October, an SAA soldier was killed by unknown gunmen in Al-Musaifra town; On 4 October, an SAA soldier was killed by unknown gunmen in the Sahr Golan area;

On 4 October, SAA artillery shelled positions of Turkish-backed forces in Al-Barah village;

On 4 October, SAA artillery shelled positions of Turkish-backed forces in the village of Ruwaiha;

On 4 October, Russian warplanes hit positions of Turkish-backed forces in the Kabani area.

<https://southfront.org/military-situation-in-syria-on-october-4-2022-map-update/>

MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTHERN UKRAINE ON 4 OCTOBER 2022 (MAP UPDATE)



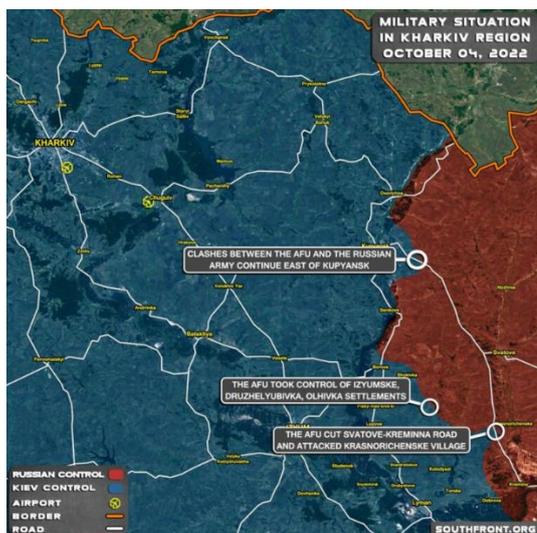
Military situation in southern Ukraine on 4 October 2022 (map update)

The AFU has captured the settlements of Arkhanhelske and Novopetrivka; AFU captured the settlements Davidov Brod, Myroliubivka, Lyubymivka, Khreshchenivka, Zolota Balka, Shevchenkivka, Ukrainka, Bilyaivka, Mykhailivka, Novooleksandrivka, Havrylivka;

In Sukhyi Stavok clashes between the AFU and the Russian army continue.

<https://southfront.org/military-situation-in-southern-ukraine-on-october-4-2022-map-update/>

UKRAINIAN ADVANCE IN HARKOV REGION, UKRAINE, ON 4 OCTOBER 2022 (MAP UPDATE)



Ukrainian advance in Kharkov region, Ukraine, on 4 October 2022 (map update)

AFU took control of the settlements of Izyumske, Druzhelyubivka, Olhivka;
AFU cut Svatove-Kreminna road and attacked Krasnorichenske village;
Clashes between the AFU and the Russian army continue east of Kupyansk.
<https://southfront.org/ukrainian-advance-in-kharkov-region-ukraine-on-october-4-2022-map-update/>

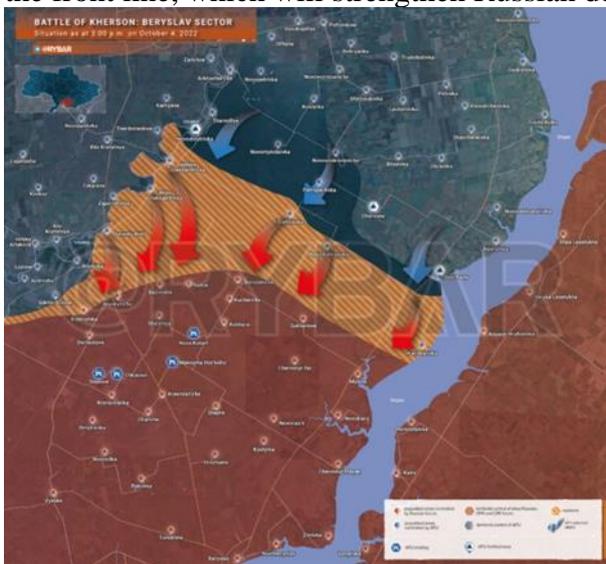
BREAKING: RUSSIAN FORCES LEAVE NORTHERN PART OF KHERSON REGION

BREAKING NEWS: Russian forces leave northern Kherson region



The Russian army recently left several towns in the northern part of the Kherson region amid increasing pressure from the Armed Forces of Ukraine. After the Ukrainian military reached the village of Dudchany on the right bank of the Kakhovsky reservoir and attacked Russian positions in the Davidov Brod area on the frontline in north-western Kherson, the Russian group in the north of the region faced the risk of being surrounded. Following the Ukrainian offensive, the Russian military decided to withdraw from the area. They left the towns on the left bank of the Ingulets River, including Davidov Brod, where fierce fighting continued for about two months, Olgino, Arkhangelskoe, Velikaya Aleksandrovka and Malaya Aleksandrovka. They also abandoned their positions near Novovoskresenskoe and Novaya Kamenka.

Russian forces are expected to establish their defences along the Kostroma - Borozenskoye - Mylovoye line. For now, fighting continues near Dudchany. The withdrawal has allowed the Russian military to avoid encirclement and straighten the front line. Given the limited number of Russian forces deployed in the region, the manoeuvre should also shorten the front line, which will strengthen Russian defences.



Unlike the Ukrainian military command, which freely uses military personnel as cannon fodder, the Russian army is determined to save the lives of military personnel. So far, all Russian groups that have been surrounded by Ukrainian troops have been evacuated before being destroyed. The Russian side suffers from a shortage of military personnel and urgently needs to reinforce its military positions with mobilised troops to stop Ukraine's advance and to launch possible counter-offensive operations. The AFU aim to reach the town of Novaya Kakhovka, where the hydroelectric power plant is located, and advance further towards Kherson. If their advance continues, the regional capital could be surrounded. Ukrainian armed forces are already preparing for offensive operations in the Snigirevka area, from where they will try to advance towards the city of Kherson from the north-west. Another direction of the Ukrainian offensive could be the Posad-Pokrovsky region, where the AFU maintains its military positions 30 kilometres west of the city. At the same time, the Ukrainian navy has already signalled its intention to launch an assault operation in the Dnieper estuary. The situation looks critical for the Russian army. Unless immediate action is taken, the security of the entire Kherson region, which recently voted to join the Russian Federation, could be threatened. In that case, the Crimean peninsula will also come under the scrutiny of Ukraine and NATO.

<https://southfront.org/breaking-russian-forces-leave-northern-regions-of-kherson-region/>

A NORTH KOREAN BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFIANTLY FLEW OVER JAPAN



On the morning of 4 October, North Korea reportedly launched a ballistic missile into the Sea of Japan. The Japanese government has warned residents of some remote islands that are part of Tokyo as well as Hokkaido and Aomori prefectures to take cover. According to Tokyo's defence ministry, the missile flew over Japan's northern territory. It is believed to have fallen into the Pacific Ocean, outside the country's exclusive economic zone, some 3,000 kilometres from the islands of the Japanese archipelago. The Japanese claims have been backed up by South Korea. According to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, North Korea's intermediate-range ballistic missile flew ~4,500 km, with an apogee of ~970 km, reaching a speed of Mach 17 before it crashed into the Pacific Ocean about 2,800 nautical miles east of Korea after traveling over Japan. JSC added that South Korea and US intelligence authorities

are still looking into more details. The DPRK reportedly launched an unidentified ballistic missile from Mupyong-ri. Pyongyang has not yet reacted to the claims from Tokyo and Seoul. The following video reportedly shows the missile:

The last time North Korea's missiles flew over Japan, five years ago.

Pyongyang has conducted a series of missile tests in the past week. Pyongyang has resumed missile tests, carrying out several ballistic missile launches, the latest of which was carried out last Saturday. Meanwhile, Seoul and Washington have conducted joint war games, and US Vice President Kamala Harris has travelled to the North Korean border. Last week, Harris travelled to the demilitarised zone and denounced the government of supreme leader Kim Jong-un. She attacked Pyongyang, calling the government a "brutal dictatorship". She went on to call for the complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, provocatively pledging to defend South Korea with "the full range of US defence capabilities".

<https://southfront.org/>

Humanitarian aid ship for Ukraine to arrive Wednesday in Agigea port



The French humanitarian aid ship for Ukraine is scheduled to dock on Wednesday 5 October at 08.00. The ship will dock at berth 120, near the DP World terminal.

France's largest humanitarian aid to Ukraine, over a thousand tonnes of goods, including emergency vehicles, medicines and food rations, is scheduled to arrive by sea on Wednesday 5 October in the port of Agigea, Constanta.

On arrival in Romania, the goods will be transported to the humanitarian hub in Suceava. The fire and rescue vehicles will be transported in a French civil security convoy, thanks to the deployment of a detachment of 34 firefighters from the civil security military formations and two firefighters from the specialist battalion in Marseille.

In cooperation with the French embassies in Romania and Ukraine, the donations will be distributed to identified Ukrainian beneficiaries, including the Ukrainian Emergency Service, the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, as well as the cities of Chernihiv and Kharkov, the municipalities of Odessa and Stryi.

The humanitarian aid ship left Marseille on 28 September, where a ceremony was held in the presence of the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Catherine Colonna.

The aid consists of:

- 15 fire and rescue vehicles brought up to Ukrainian standards, including; 8 semi-rigid watercraft; 19 tonnes of equipment (rescue, de-rigging and protection equipment);
- 25 tonnes of emergency and resuscitation medicines and a medical vehicle equipped with a mobile X-ray machine to allow on-site examinations;

- 60,000 food rations (two meals per ration), 48 tonnes of formula and 13 tonnes of milk;
- 5 generators, construction materials and tarpaulins.
- over 200 metres of emergency bridges to be used for rapid rehabilitation operations of Ukrainian civilian infrastructure.

This operation, called "Un bateau pour l'Ukraine / A ship for Ukraine", is coordinated by the Crisis and Support Centre of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. This unprecedented sea transport is being carried out with the support of the CMA CGM Foundation, which has provided its ship "Aknoul" for the operation.

Source: <https://www.replicaonline.ro/nava-cu-ajutoare-umanitare-pentru-ucraina-va-sosi-miercuri-in-portul-agigea-534120?z=1>

USS Bonhomme Richard fire - Was it fire or widespread failure?



On the morning of July 12, 2020, the first orange glimmers of destruction appeared in the bowels of the giant USS Bonhomme Richard as it sat docked at a San Diego naval base. Undeterred, the fire gathered force, growing upward, conquering one level of the 844-foot ship and then the next as the crew - the ship's critical firefighting force - fled to shore. There, the captain and his sailors stood by as Bonhomme Richard burned, in a cruel irony of his motto "I have not yet begun to fight." By the time the San Diego Fire Department came aboard, someone was splashing water on the fire - nearly two hours after it started. But by then it was too late. Gas cylinders were exploding, and the firefighters didn't have a map or even a sailor to guide them through the ship's smoky maze. A firefighter's warning that a compartment was "about to explode" forced the firefighters off the Bonhomme Richard just minutes before an explosion so powerful it was heard 13 miles away and blew debris onto a nearby destroyer. That afternoon, flames, hot enough to deform steel beams, danced along the flight deck and engulfed the ship's outer structure. As the inferno raged, it melted the interior of the 300-ton control center on top of the ship, throwing molten aluminum onto the decks below. Sailors later watched the collapse of the forward mast, where the American flag flies while the ship is at sea. Four days later, when the fire was officially extinguished, the US Navy faced the horrific loss of a \$1.2 billion warship, not at war or even at sea.

For the Navy, whose reputation as the world's best has been battered by recent collisions at sea and allegations of faulty equipment and training, the loss of the Bonhomme Richard was an embarrassing - and painfully public - blow. The service immediately launched two parallel investigations into what went wrong and why. The command investigation, led by a three-star admiral, sent a team of investigators on a prodigious and methodical examination of the fire. As the months passed, the investigators uncovered in exhaustive

detail an astonishing array of malfunctions - broken or missing fire hoses, poorly trained sailors, improperly stored hazardous materials - that set the ship up for a major fire.

A separate Naval Criminal Investigative Service investigation, in turn, focused on whether anyone was criminally liable. As the months passed, NCIS investigators seemed to operate in isolation, ignoring the damning findings of the command investigation to pursue a case of arson despite limited evidence. Six weeks into both investigations, the Navy told the command investigation to accept at face value what NCIS and federal investigators believed was the origin of the fire. Both investigations ended in 2021. The command investigation traced the problems back to the time the Bonhomme Richard docked for maintenance, and Navy leaders from all ranks abandoned responsibility for the ship's safety. Risks increased and no one paid attention. In total, investigators determined that the actions of 17 sailors and officers directly led to the loss of the ship, and those of 17 others, including five admirals, contributed. The long list was a stunning indictment of everyone from sailors to top admirals who had failed in their jobs. The NCIS investigation, however, laid the blame at the feet of one young sailor. The real culprit, the one who bore responsibility for the billion-dollar loss, the Navy said, was 20-year-old Ryan Mays. And for that he should face life in prison. The Navy has continued its prosecution of Mays, even as a military judge has recommended against him, arguing without question the lack of evidence and citing the findings of the Navy's own command investigation. As of this week, Mays is being court-martialed in a military trial in San Diego for aggravated arson and reckless endangering of a vessel.

UPDATE: Navy sailor found not guilty of starting USS Bonhomme Richard fire

A Navy spokesman said the service could not comment on pending litigation, but noted that the admiral who ordered the court-martial carefully reviewed the recommendation before deciding to move forward. "Everyone is entitled to a fair trial, and the Navy is committed to upholding that principle," Cmdr. Sean Robertson said. In court, the Navy sought to preclude questions about its motives - and even to quash evidence gathered by its own officers about the dangerous conditions aboard the Bonhomme Richard. Last month, the prosecutor, Captain Jason Jones, asked the judge to bar Mays' lawyer from presenting the findings of the command investigation. Mays, who now holds the lowest military rank of E1, should not be able to ask the court to consider him the fall guy, Jones said.

Within days of the fire being extinguished, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigators, who led the criminal investigation with NCIS, stepped into the ship's water-filled hull, searching for what ignited the flames. Because the amphibious assault ship was "in the yards" at the time of the fire, the flight deck, which spanned more than two football fields, had been emptied of the F-35 helicopters and fighter jets it was designed to carry. One of eight such ships in the Navy, the Bonhomme Richard is like a small aircraft carrier, made to carry thousands of Marines into battle. It was taken out of service for a year and a half during a \$249 million overhaul. On the morning of the fire, the upgrade was nearly complete. Officials determined that the fire broke out in an area of the ship known as the "lower V," which normally gathered dozens of Navy tanks and other vehicles, but during the overhaul was used as a shelter, according to testimony and reports. . on the day of the fire, the lower V had been packed with two fuel forklifts, a man-lift, pallets of hand sanitizer, lithium batteries and other combustibles, wooden beams, scaffolding, rope and thick, tall cardboard crates, some stacked two high.

Source: <https://gcaptain.com/uss-bonhomme-richard-fire-was-it-arson-or-widespread-safety-failures/>

UK frigate joins Norwegian navy ships guarding North Sea pipelines



A UK Royal Navy frigate is joining Norwegian forces operating in the North Sea to protect gas pipelines after last week's rupture of two Nord Stream pipelines in the Baltic Sea, the UK Ministry of Defence announced on Monday. "A Royal Navy frigate is in the North Sea working with the Norwegian Navy to secure those working near gas pipelines," the statement said on Monday. The Ministry of Justice did not specify the frigate, but The Telegraph reported that it would likely be HMS Somerset (F82), which has been exercising with Norwegian forces near Stavanger, Norway. Somerset completed a four-year modernization period in March and is one of the most modernized ships in the Royal Navy, Naval News reported. The frigate's deployment to the region follows multiple explosions in sections of the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines near Denmark that send natural gas from Russia to Germany. Over the weekend, NATO called the damage to the pipelines "deliberate, reckless and irresponsible acts of sabotage." The announcement of the frigate's award from the Ministry of Defence follows closely on the heels of a Monday meeting of the UK-led Joint Expeditionary Force that condemned the "reckless sabotage" of the pipelines. The JEF - made up of the UK, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden - is set up to deploy a multinational force at short notice in the North Atlantic. During the meeting, "the ministers discussed increasing joint intelligence assessments to ensure common situational awareness as well as cooperation to secure critical infrastructure," a joint statement from the Ministry of Defence said on Monday. "JEF will ensure complementarity, alignment and transparency with NATO as well as with the investigation led by Danish, Swedish and German authorities." In addition to the frigate, Sweden on Monday sent a diving vessel to the Nord Stream pipeline site to inspect the damage, Reuters television service reported. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin offered US support to his Danish counterpart during their meeting, and the US stands ready to offer assistance, a senior US military official told reporters on Monday. "We have not been asked to provide specific DoD capabilities at this time," the official said. So far, no one has established who was responsible for the September 27 pipeline rupture, which a joint Danish and Swedish United Nations report said was the result of explosions equivalent to "several hundred kilograms of explosives," according to The Guardian.

Source: <https://news.usni.org/2022/10/03/u-k-frigate-joins-norwegian-navy-guarding-north-sea-pipelines-following-nord-stream-ruptures>

Sweden sends dive ship to investigate Nord Stream pipeline leak

Sweden on Monday sent a dive ship to the site of Russian gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea that ruptured last week following explosions in the area to investigate an incident that has added new tension to Europe's energy crisis, according to Reuters. Europe is investigating what caused three Nord Stream pipelines to burst in a suspected act of sabotage near Swedish and Danish waters that Moscow was quick to try to pin on the West, suggesting the United States had something to gain. Nord Stream, which runs from Russia to Germany, has been at the centre of a growing gas supply crisis in Europe, which until recently relied heavily on Russian fuel, causing prices to rise. Several European Union countries have triggered contingency plans that could lead to rationing as they race to find alternative supplies, while Britain now faces a "significant risk" of gas shortages this winter, the regulator said. "The coast guard is responsible for the mission, but we support them with units," a Swedish navy spokesman, Jimmie Adamsson, told Reuters. "The only one we are calling is HMS Belos, which is a submarine rescue and diving vessel." Sweden's prosecution authority said in a press release that it had designated the area as a crime scene. A spokesman for the Swedish coastguard confirmed in an email that there is now a five nautical mile exclusion zone around the spill. Earlier, the Swedish coast guard said Nord Stream 1 had stopped leaking, but a flyover suggested gas was still leaking from Nord Stream 2 and bubbling to the surface within 30 metres (32 yards). The Kremlin doubled down on accusations that the West was to blame for the ruptures on Monday, saying the United States had managed to increase sales and prices of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Washington has strongly denied any involvement. European countries suspect sabotage but have refused to say who might be behind it. Kremlin-controlled Gazprom (GAZP.MM) also said flows could resume at the last remaining intact pipeline in the Nord Stream 2 network, a suggestion that could be dismissed given that Europe has blocked Nord Stream 2. "If the decision is made to start deliveries through Nord Stream 2's B line, natural gas will be pumped into the pipeline after the integrity of the system has been checked and verified by supervisory authorities," Gazprom said. The suggestion comes after Russia's deputy prime minister's remarks on Sunday that the Nord Stream network could be repaired given enough time and funds. Nord Stream has been a flashpoint in the energy standoff between the West and Moscow that has hit Western economies and fueled a cost-of-living crisis. Russia has steadily cut gas flows through Nord Stream 1 this year before shutting them off completely in late August, blaming technical difficulties caused by Western sanctions. European countries have said Moscow is using energy as a weapon. Nord Stream 2 has never been operational, and Western countries have resisted calls from Russia to drop opposition to the project. Shocked by Nord Stream's ruptures, European countries have begun to strengthen security and surveillance around critical infrastructure that could be vulnerable to attack. Norway, Europe's main gas supplier and a major oil exporter, said it has deployed soldiers to guard large onshore oil and gas processing plants. Italy has tightened surveillance and controls on underwater energy and telecommunications cables, a source told Reuters. It has also focused on the safety of other gas supply lines. Eni, Italy's biggest importer of Russian gas, said over the weekend that Russia had stopped all gas flows through the Tarvisio entry point, although its chief executive blamed the shutdown on Monday on short-term technical problems. Stopping flows through the Tarvisio entry point "has absolutely nothing to do with geopolitical factors. It is because Gazprom would have to pay a monetary guarantee for the transport of gas from Austria to Italy that was not there before," Claudio Descalzi said. Meanwhile, EU countries are trying to build consensus on gas price caps, which some countries, including economic powerhouse Germany, oppose. EU leaders are to ask the European Commission to propose a cap using "workable solutions", according to a draft statement seen by Reuters. Hungary, which has been at loggerheads with Brussels

and criticised Western sanctions against Russia, won a deferral of payments for its winter gas supplies on Monday.

Source: <https://en.portnews.ru/news/336493/>

Aqaba container terminal announces vision of zero emissions

APM Terminals and Aqaba Development Cooperation signed a memorandum of understanding this week for a 15-year extension of their partnership in Aqaba Container Terminal (ACT). The agreement provides a \$242 million investment to maintain ACT's leadership position in the region and accelerate plans to transform ACT into a truly sustainable gateway to Jordan, the Levant and beyond. At a post-signing forum, Keith Svendsen, CEO of APM Terminals, outlined key aspects of the company's future vision for the Port of Aqaba, which include ambitious decarbonisation plans, modernisation and expansion of ACT, development of a training centre for individuals working in the maritime and logistics sectors and continued support for Jordan's goal of becoming an export hub for green energy. "Aqaba is considered one of APM Terminals' major strategic ports and an important gateway to the Levant region and beyond," he said. "To reinforce our long-term commitment to Aqaba and to Jordan's Economic Modernization Vision 2030, we have developed a meticulous plan to improve Aqaba's competitiveness both regionally and globally, including a zero net emissions target for 2040 - the only port in the region with such a port. "

Investing in solar power On-site solar will completely eliminate the terminal's carbon footprint, and the zero-carbon terminal will become the heart of Aqaba's future logistics ecosystem. Relocating customs closer to the port will streamline customs clearance processes and connect directly to the Aqaba Logistics Village, where growing trade opportunities will reach the wider economy. Bringing agents and shippers together will also ensure faster distribution of goods. The potential for renewable energy regattas will fulfil APM Terminals' commitment to decarbonisation. Maersk will also support the development of green hydrogen fuel with knowledge, expertise and high demand for green fuel, enabling the Kingdom to improve its position as a producer and exporter of green fuel. Training Centre of Excellence Part of the vision is the development of a Centre of Excellence for the logistics and maritime industry, which will play a key role in developing the skills of current and future industry professionals in line with global standards and norms. This will support growth and progress for Jordan and across the Levant. Students enrolled in the center will have the opportunity to be an integral part of Aqaba's transformation, enabling local community members to take a more active role in these exciting changes.

VIDEO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4c82Cyyv5Do&feature=emb_logo.

Source: <https://www.marineinsight.com/videos/video-aqaba-container-terminal-announces-zero-emission-vision/>

Sval Energi completes \$1.3 billion transaction

Sval Energi AS strengthens its position on the Norwegian continental shelf by closing the previously announced transactions with Martin Linge and Greater Ekofisk Area with Equinor and the acquisition of Suncor Energy Norge AS, according to a company release. Equinor's acquisitions of interests in the Martin Linge unit and Greater Ekofisk Area closed on Sept. 30, with an effective date of Jan. 1, 2022. The acquisition of Suncor Energy Norge

AS closed on 30 September, with an effective date of 1 March 2022. The transactions add around 34,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day to Sval's production. The Equinor transactions include a 19 percent interest in the Martin Linge unit and Equinor's full interest in the Greater Ekofisk area.¹ The Suncor Energy Norge AS acquisition brings an additional 30 percent ownership in the Sval-operated Oda field, a 17.5 percent ownership in the Fenja field and 8 additional licenses. The Sval team was joined by 16 Suncor employees. Sval Energi is a privately owned Norwegian energy company. Backed by leading energy investor HitecVision, Sval Energi is building a strong portfolio that combines oil and gas resources with decarbonising value chains. Sval Energi aims to be a major Norwegian player in the Norwegian energy sector.

Source: <https://en.portnews.ru/news/336500/>

Ust-Luga fleet maintenance base to be loaded with orders by 2030 (Rosmorport)

The base is to be commissioned in the third quarter of 2023. Work to establish the ship maintenance base in Ust-Luga from securing repairs afloat to opening a 180-metre dock is in the process of finding a contractor. The current political and economic situation, on the other hand, facilitates the implementation of the project by encouraging market localisation. On the other hand, it hinders the supply of materials and equipment, hence the concern of potential customers and the worsening staffing problem. The issue was the focus of Vasily Strugov, Deputy Director General of FSUE Rosmorport, at the Maritime Congress. According to him, the new ship repair facility in Ust-Luga will be devoted entirely to repairing the state-owned company's fleet of 291 vessels, including its new General Chernyakhovsky ferry, which is due to join the Ust-Luga-Baltiysk line by the end of the year. "Taking into account the number of vessels, the demand for repairs and modernisation of vessels, we expect the year-round operating company to be loaded with orders by 2030," he said adding that the modernisation of the icebreakers of Projects 1105 and 1101 would facilitate core development. The modernisation of the Project 1105 icebreakers is to be carried out in cooperation with Nordic Engineering. As for Project 1101, a design office is being selected to ensure the extension of the icebreakers' service life to 15 years, said Vasily Strugov. "As of today, we are looking for a contractor to create a ship repair base in Ust-Luga. Unfortunately, we have not found him so far... We will launch the base in the third quarter of 2023 and start repairs on the waterline, without docking it at the beginning. Then we'll build a dock for about 3,500 - 5,000 tons, which will maintain about 70% of our own ships. The largest ships are - 200 meters long ferry Marshall Rokossovsky, and the heaviest ship is the icebreaker Victor Chernomyrdin. In the future, we will have a dock with a capacity of 20 thousand tons, length of 180 meters and width of 34.5 meters," Vasily Strugov said. He stressed that the key reason behind the creation of a repair base in Ust-Luga is to minimize the risks associated with the restrictions of foreign ship repair companies and the consequent overloading of domestic yards. According to Vasily Strugov, Ust-Luga has the advantage of a short ice period while its disadvantages are its remoteness from logistics bases and personnel, the latter of which is aggravated by mobilisation. Other negative factors are problems with the supply of new equipment and spare parts. The fleet maintenance base in the port of Ust-Luga is intended to house and maintain the port fleet (tugs, pilot vessels, skimmers, boom boats, etc.), collect and dispose of waste from vessels calling at the port of Ust-Luga, and monitor and respond to oil spills. It was in an active construction phase between 2011 and 2017. Major construction and assembly works of buildings and facilities have been completed as well as major utility network development works and equipment installation. However, a bankruptcy procedure

initiated against General Contractor PST SA in 2017 resulted in the cancellation of the state contract and all construction works were terminated. The design works for the completion of the facility were carried out by NPK MorTransNiiProekt OJSC.

Source: <https://en.portnews.ru/news/336491/>

Rosatom and Rosmorrechflot build inland transport corridors leading to the Northern Sea Route

Proposals will be submitted to the RF Government

Rosatom and the Federal Agency for Marine and River Transport (Rosmorrechflot) are working on inland water transport corridors leading to the Northern Sea Route, IAA correspondent PortNews quotes Vladimir Panov, Special Representative for Arctic Development, Rosatom, as saying at the Maritime Congress. in Moscow. "This is a complicated and comprehensive issue that we are addressing today together with our colleagues in the Ministry of Transport... for our proposals to be submitted to the RF Government," Vladimir Panov said. The Northern Sea Route is a single transport system in the Russian Arctic sector. It stretches along Russia's northern coasts across the seas of the Arctic Ocean (Kara, Laptev, Eastern Siberia, Chukchi Seas). The route links Russia's European ports with the mouths of navigable rivers in Siberia and the Far East. In August 2022, a development plan for the Northern Sea Route (NSR) until 2035 was approved. The plan includes more than 150 activities with total funding of almost RUB 1.8 trillion.

Source: <https://en.portnews.ru/news/336478/>

Putin sends 'nuclear train' to front line, likely weapons tests

Russian President Vladimir Putin probably intends to test nuclear weapons near Ukraine - to this end, he has directed a so-called "nuclear train" towards the front line. "European Truth writes about it, reports The Times. Vladimir Putin has made it clear that he is prepared to use nuclear weapons to defend Russia, and tensions have risen since his annexation of four hotly disputed regions of Ukraine. And now a convoy of BPM-97 armored personnel carriers and other military equipment is moving through central Russia, as the pro-Russian Rybar channel reported in Telegram. The sophisticated equipment, which includes anti-mine weapons, reportedly belongs to the Russian Army's 12th Main Directorate, which manages central nuclear weapons depots. Polish military analyst Konrad Muzyka noted that this train is responsible for nuclear munitions, their storage, maintenance, transport and delivery to relevant units. This could mean that nuclear weapons are being taken to the frontline or it could be an attempt by Putin to threaten and intimidate the West. Musica tweeted about the train image, "Does this mean this video shows preparations for a nuclear explosion? Not really. There are other more plausible explanations." In his opinion, it could be a message from the West or the military equipment could be used for educational purposes. According to the British publication, NATO has already warned its allies about possible Russian nuclear tests near the border with Ukraine. As reported, NATO intelligence services have warned the Allies about a possible test by Russia of the nuclear-powered "Poseidon" super torpedo. It will be recalled that British Defence Minister Ben Wallace believes it is extremely unlikely that Russian President Vladimir Putin would use nuclear weapons against Ukraine, but stresses that Putin is acting "irrationally". As you know, after the announcement of partial mobilisation in the Russian Federation, Putin again threatened Western countries with the use of nuclear weapons. Western leaders have condemned Putin's nuclear rhetoric as a dangerous escalation.

Source: <https://www.blackseanews.net/read/195110>.

Russian nuclear test in the Black Sea? British media advance possibility of Putin-ordered demonstration on Ukraine border



The British newspaper The Times has reported, citing military sources, that Russia will defiantly conduct nuclear tests near the border with Ukraine, which is a very risky move.

The British publication's sources claim that the nuclear blast will in fact be carried out for demonstration rather than testing purposes. According to them, the test site will be the Black Sea aquarium.

The British journalists note that such actions are very risky and the slightest mistake can harm even residents and settlements on Russian territory.

Previously, both British and US Defense Department officials have said that the likelihood of Russia using nuclear weapons in Ukraine is extremely low. For his part, former CIA chief General David Petraeus said that if Moscow were to use tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine, then the US would have to destroy the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

On the other hand, Ilya Kramnik, a Russian researcher at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, was also sceptical about the possibility of the Russian military resuming nuclear tests. In his view, the demonstration nuclear explosions will in no way affect the behaviour of the major powers, but only spoil the attitude towards Russia of countries that do not possess nuclear weapons.

Source: https://www.defenseromania.ro/presa-britanica-rusia-va-executa-teste-nucleare-demonstrative-in-marea-neagra-in-apropierea-granitei-cu-ucraina_618579.html.

Greece sells Volos port

Greece has started the process of selling a controlling stake in the port of Volos. The relevant statement was issued by the national privatisation agency HRADF on Monday 3 October, reports Porta Ukraina with reference to Reuters. HRADF consultants will study possible investor interest in the sale of at least 67% of the Volos Port Authority, which manages the port, through an international tender," the statement said. In July, as part of the large-scale privatisation of the Greek port industry, the country's authorities put the ports of Alexandroupolis and Igoumenitsa up for auction. In 2020, the Hellenic Privatisation Agency (HRADF) announced international tenders to select investors and operators for the ports of Alexandroupolis, Igoumenitsa, Heraklion and Volos, but these did not take place due to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Piraeus and Thessaloniki were the first Greek ports to be privatised by foreign investors. Piraeus is currently controlled by Chinese group COSCO, which bought a 51% stake in the country's largest in 2016, while a 67% stake in the

port of Thessaloniki was bought in 2018 by an investment consortium that included Deutsche Invest Equity Partners GmbH's Terminal Link. SAS and Belterra Investments LTD, which is owned by Rostov businessman Ivan Savvida.

Source: <https://www.blackseanews.net/read/195092>.

Exercise in the roadstead of the port of Constanta for marine pollution response activities



Today, 4 October 2022, the Romanian Naval Authority participates with 2 specialist inspectors from the MRCC in an exercise under the aegis of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), giving them the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the on-board procedures for marine pollution response activities.

The exercise takes place on the Amalthia, which is under stand-by contract with EMSA and can be called upon by the competent authorities in Romania in case the national capacity to respond to major marine oil pollution is exceeded.

The procedure foresees that in case of mobilisation of the Amalthia, when the national pollution response capacity is exceeded and international assistance is requested, a person from the Romanian Maritime Coordination Centre of the Romanian Naval Authority is designated to be present on board the vessel for as long as the vessel participates in the pollution response activities, in order to ensure coordination with the MRCC and the other vessels involved in the response operations.

The Amalthia, like all ships under contract with EMSA, has planned quarterly operational exercises, one of which is today's.

In accordance with HG 893/2006, amending HG 1593/2002 on the approval of the National Plan for preparedness, response and cooperation in case of marine oil pollution, the Romanian Naval Authority, through the Maritime Coordination Centre/MRCC, coordinates the Maritime Operations Division.

The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) has responsibilities in the field of maritime safety and security, i.e. in the field of preventing and combating marine pollution that may occur in the European Community's area of responsibility, and can provide assistance to Member States in the event of major marine pollution.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/AutoritateaNavalaRomana>.