

## PARTICIPATION IN OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR

Operation Active Endeavour (OAE) is a NATO effort to combat terrorism, whose aim and current functions are to deter, protect against, and detect terrorist activity in the Mediterranean. OAE's area of responsibility was initially the Eastern Mediterranean, but since March 2004 its remit was extended to cover the whole area of the Mediterranean.

NATO's Naval Force continues to conduct deterrence anti-terrorist maritime operations in the Mediterranean with four surface ships, a submarine and airborne maritime surveillance. The operation supports the efforts made by the naval forces of the nations with regard to protection of maritime energy infrastructure and Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC) against terrorist attacks.

Since 2005, Bulgaria has been providing support for OAE, directly contributing by annually providing a frigate with a crew of roughly 110 men to participate in the operation for a month, as well as a task force of the special maritime vessel inspection team. The mission of the frigate includes conducting surveillance of maritime transportation in the area of responsibility (Mediterranean international waters) and, upon consent, boarding to inspect vessels and cargo, compliant with the tasks set by the Commander of the Operation. The crew is permanently ready to protect particular ships upon order. Our frigate also partakes in conducting operations on providing escorts through the Straits of Gibraltar to non-military ships from Alliance member states requesting them. Bulgarian frigate last participated in OAE in October 2009.

More information about the operation is available at:

[http://www.afsouth.nato.int/JFCN\\_Operations/ActiveEndeavour/Endeavour.htm](http://www.afsouth.nato.int/JFCN_Operations/ActiveEndeavour/Endeavour.htm)