GHANA ARMED FORCES

PRESS RELEASE

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MULTINATIONAL MARITIME EXERCISE UNDERWAY

Exercise OBANGAME EXPRESS, an annual combined Central and West African multinational maritime exercise in collaboration with the United States Naval Forces, Africa (NAVAF) in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) is underway.

The Exercise involves the Ghana Navy, West and Central African navies and maritime stakeholders in partnership with the United States and Euro-Atlantic navies and maritime stakeholders from 31 countries with a focus on increased regional cooperation and maritime safety and security. This year's exercise officially commenced on 23 January 2023 in Lagos, Nigeria and will end with a Closing Ceremony on Wednesday 3 February 2023 in Accra, Ghana.

Under the auspices of the United States Naval Forces, Africa (NAVAF), OBANGAME EXPRESS 2023 is designed to build the capacity of the navies in the GoG region to maintain a safe and secured maritime environment for socio-economic development involving stakeholders in Ghana's maritime partners and cooperation at sea. The exercise also focuses on the practical implementation of some laid down inter-agency procedures towards managing maritime security threats and incidents and focuses mainly on information sharing between maritime stakeholders.

With over 200 participants and regional groupings participating in the Exercise, OBANGAME EXPRESS 2023 is being conducted in multiple areas at sea and ashore. All exercise scenarios is coordinated in the Exercise Control Group (ECG) centre at Lagos, Nigeria. Numerous Maritime

Operation Centres are also participating ashore from across the Gulf of Guinea and West Africa with several international organizations.

A Command Post Exercise was held from the 23 – 27 January at the Naval Headquarters, Naval Training Command, Western and Eastern Naval Commands and Ghana's Territorial Waters. The Field Training exercise commenced on 28 January and is still ongoing. Some of the exercise scenarios include Anti-Piracy, Armed Smuggling, Oil Spillage Management, Anti-Narcotics, Anti-Human Trafficking and Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

The 31 countries participating in the exercise include Angola, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde, Cameroun, Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gambia, Ghana, Germany, Guinea (Conakry), Liberia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Morocco, Poland, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Togo and the United States of America. Also participating in the exercise include the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

SIGNED
MA LARBI
Naval Captain
Director Public Relations

Note to Editors:

For favour of publication, please.

Cc:

All Media Houses