Common Module
Maritime Security
Module Description

Implementation Group
Doc.: **ESDC/2026/108**
Date: **18/02/2026**
Origin: **ESDC Secretariat**

Country	Institution	Common Module	ECTS
BG	**NVNA**	**Maritime Security**	**2.0**

Service(s): **Navy**	**Minimum Qualification of Instructors:** • Naval experience as CO, XO or OOW. • English: Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) Level B1 or NATO STANAG Level 2.
Language: **English**	
SQF MILOF:	• **Competence area** – International Security/Diplomacy Actor. • **Learning area** – International relations. • **Organisational level** – Single Arm/Branch.

Prerequisites for participants:	Contents of the Module:
• English: Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) Level B1 or NATO STANAG Level 2.	• The maritime security dimensions of different theories in international relations. • The role and place of maritime security elements (the context, rationale and key principles of employing various power levers) within an integrated / whole of government approach to conflict and crisis. • The role of the military instrument at the national and international levels within the national and global maritime security environment.

Learning outcomes		
	Know-ledge	• Formulate the basics of the Security Environment in the Maritime Domain and of Naval Control and Guidance of Shipping. • Define the aim and role of the EU maritime strategy.
	Skills	• To orient in dynamic maritime security environment, obtaining common situational awareness. • Develop creative and efficient decision-making in accordance with security and tactical factors in the Maritime domain.
	Respon-sibility & Autonomy	• To understand the course of action of the higher command level and take the necessary initiative to contribute to its success. • To make decisions in an unpredictable operating naval environment.

Verification of learning outcomes:

- **Observation:** The course consists of theoretical classes followed by practice on a Full Mission Virtual Ship handling Simulator resembling battle ship navigational bridge.
- **Tests:** The module learning outcomes verification concept is based on assessment of trainee's knowledge, skills, and competences revealed after personal tasking during the training process, supported by fictitious scenarios developed into a virtual environment.
- **Evaluation:** The final evaluation of trainees is made on the basis of observation of results and practical tests during the final stage of the presented module. Certificate of attendance and individual feedback is provided to participants.

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Module details:

Main Topic	Recommended WH for the residential phase	Details
EU maritime strategy.	4	• Core principles. • Objectives - overall security and peace, rule of law and freedom of navigation, external border control, maritime infrastructure, natural resources and environmental health, and climate change preparedness. • Actions - international cooperation, maritime surveillance, capability development, research and innovation, risk management, education and training.
Command, Control and Communication on Tactical Level. Resource management.	2	• Theoretical basis of C3 principles. • Implementation of C3 principles on the tactical level in the Navy. • Leadership and Adequate Management of Available Resources on board.
NCAGS - Relationship with civilian shipping.	2	• NCAGS Concept and Structure. • NCAGS Information Formats.
Protective Measures Against Threats to Merchant Ships.	4	• Situational Awareness. • Threat Warnings. • General Threat Considerations. • Types of Threat.
Applicable Rules of Engagement at sea.	4	• The right of self-defence of a naval vessel. • The use of force during naval operations. • Competences of military and non-military maritime authorities.
ROE Procedures.	3	• Training of Procedures, Communications, Manoeuvring assisted by use of a Full Mission Virtual Ship-handling Simulator • Bridge to Bridge Communications and Tactical signals for manoeuvring in surface formation. • Processing of Tactical Signals.
Joint Sailing of Surface Task Group	4	• Implementation of knowledge and skills for protection of the Surface Task Group by use of applicable RoE. • Watch keeping. Practice of STCW requirements / OOW duties. • Guidance and Protection of shipping in a maritime crisis environment.
Total WH (contact hours)	**23**	
Additional hours (WH) to increase and assess the learning outcomes (during residential phase):		
Self-studies	25	• ATP-02.1 NCAGS Guide to Owners, Operators, Masters and Officers. • Protect EU - EU Security Union Strategy. • European Maritime Security Strategy. • San Remo Handbook on Rules of Engagement.
Final evaluation	2	• Observations of results and practical tests during the final stage of the module.
Total WH	**50**	The detailed amount of hours for the respective main topic is up to the course director according to national law or the home institution's rules.

List of Abbreviations:

B1, B2, C1 .... CEFR Levels
BG .... Republic of Bulgaria
BIP .... Blended Intensive Programme
C3 .... Command, Control and Communication
CEFR .... Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
ECTS .... European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System
ESDC .... European Security and Defence College
IG .... Implementation Group
NATO .... North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCAGS .... Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping
NVNA .... Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy
OOW .... Officer of the Watch
RoE .... Rules of Engagement
STANAG .... Standardisation Agreement
STCW .... Standards of Training Certification and Watch keeping
WH .... Working Hour (60 minutes)

Created by X .... DD MM YYYY
Revised by CAPT (N) Nedko Dimitrov / Chairman LoD-02 .... 01 09 2025
Revised by Col. Catalin Popa / Chairman LoD-11 .... 03 02 2026
Revised by Col Assoc. Prof. Harald Gell, PhD / Chair IG 04 02 2026
Revised by Assoc. Prof. Nikolaos Karadimas, Chairman LoD-08 .... 13 02 2026
Issued with the status of "Common" by the Implementation Group .... DD MM YYYY