

**UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON  
(UNIFIL)**

Naqoura,  
16 October 2006

**PRESS RELEASE**

**UNIFIL Maritime Task Force is operational**

On 15 October 2006, the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force led by Germany took over from the Interim Maritime Task Force. The official handover took place in Beirut Port. Italian Rear Admiral Giuseppe De Giorgi, who commanded the Interim Maritime Task Force, transferred command to German Rear Admiral Andreas Krause.

*“The Maritime Task Force has an important job to do in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1701, ensuring, through supporting the Lebanese Navy, that this country’s territorial waters are not utilized for any illegal or hostile activities,”* said **UNIFIL Force Commander Maj.-General Alain Pellegrini**.

The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force will support the Lebanese Navy in monitoring its territorial waters, securing the Lebanese coastline and preventing arms smuggling.

The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force, which will patrol its area of operations along the Lebanese coastline, will include assets from Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Norway, Sweden and Turkey.

**The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force will consist of the following vessels  
and crews:**

Bulgaria	1 ship	Crew	(to be provided at a later stage)
Denmark	2 ships	Crew	57
Germany	8 ships	Crew	865
Greece	1 ship	Crew	182
Norway	5 ships	Crew	131
Sweden	1 ship	Crew	41
Turkey	1 ship	Crew	233

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