# Exercise Sea Breeze 2024: Mine Countermeasure Training Operation to Equip Ukrainian Sailors



Exercise Sea Breeze 2024, a vital mine countermeasure training operation for Ukraine and its allies, is set to commence in Scotland. Scheduled from June 26 to July 5, this exercise will take place in the Firth of Clyde near Glasgow and Loch Ewe on the northwest coast. The primary goal is to equip Ukrainian sailors with skills to detect and neutralize mines underwater, preparing for a post-conflict Black Sea following the Ukraine-Russia war.

Members of the US Navy, Royal Navy, and Ukrainian Navy, forming a joint mine countermeasure team, are participating. Training will occur on two repurposed former Royal Navy vessels. Countries involved include Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Japan, Poland, Romania, Sweden, and Turkey.

Commodore Dmytro Kovalenko of the Ukrainian Navy emphasized the challenges posed by mines to maritime safety, global food security, and commerce. Commodore Captain Geoffrey Townsend, Task Force 68 commander, highlighted the long-term nature of mine removal and the importance of collective effort between NATO and European partners. Admiral Thomas Wall of NATO noted the shift from manned to unmanned mine countermeasures as a key focus of the exercise.