

Today's military operations depend more and more on available information in real time from the battlefield. In the maritime domain, activity is apparent above the surface. However, the secret is what is beneath the water. The NATO Centre for maritime research and experimentation, with its NATO research vessel Alliance, is cutting edge and underwater research. Sponsored in part by NATO allied command transformation, scientists developed autonomous underwater vehicles, that

Collect various data from underneath the waterline. - "The gliders will prove incredibly useful in the future, because they'll improve our understanding what's happening underwater and as a result enable us to better focus our underwater detection systems and find unallocated submarines."

However, the glider information is only beneficial, if it is available to other systems. It needs to be received, analyzed and processed in a command and control center. During the coalition warrior interoperability exercise, the interoperability of the different systems is tested. From here, these gliders are remotely controlled 2,500 kilometers away from their physical location. The autonomous gliders explore a predefined area, without the risk of being detected. They collect all data via satellite back to [the sea Wix](#) command and control center in almost real-time.

- "We have two main objectives here. The first one is to remotely command and control, and to allow these two the nations, to be able to do this tasking to the fleet of gliders we have deployed in the Atlantic. And the second one, is to be able to disseminate the information we are collecting from the sea, directly to the operational sites and to put this information into their systems.

- "What NATO is able to do, by investing in these gliders is to provide this information to the nations all of whom needed, to work more effectively underwater, so it's a great opportunity for NATO on the one hand and for the nations on the other, to improve their overall understanding of the environment."

Technology at its best, saves costs, protects the navies of NATO and partners, and provides additional information to improve the maritime situational awareness for accurate decision-making. A new capability needed to protect the citizens of Allied territory.