

Abstract: Operation Triton

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Operation Triton was an order from the Norwegian government to the Norwegian Police Force, and its Norwegian National Criminal Investigative Services (NCIS), in the early spring of 2015. Orders were to support the European Union border control "Frontex". Due to the large number of migrants crossing the Mediterranean sea at the time, it was decided to not only focus on border control but also on the ability to perform search and rescue mission. The Royal Norwegian Navy was tasked to support the Police run mission, and did so by deploying personnel from the Coast Guard with experience from boarding operations and operations at sea. Force Health protection was maintained by deploying personnel from the Royal Norwegian Navy Medical Services. The vessel was a civilian supply ship, reconstructed and adapted to suit the missions need. The crew was therefore roughly 30% Police officers, 30% Navy personnel and 30% civilian crew, in order to maintain and run the vessel.

The Medical team was later supported by personnel from the Norwegian Armed Forces Joint Medical Services, as the mission was prolonged and one wanted to avoid fatigue among navy medical personnel.

The Medical team was a ROLE 1 Level 2 team, consisting of a doctor, 2 nurses and 1 medical technician. The medical team's main role was to maintain the health of the crew, the secondary aim was to be able to provide emergency medical aid to migrants who were sick or injured.

In total the operation the Norwegian vessel took on 35 896 migrants. Of these, there were 4 719 women. 3985 were children assumed under the age of 16. 34 dead picked up from other vessels and 65 were found dead or died during SAR actions where the Norwegian vessel was involved directly.

Operation Triton ended 31.12.2017.

