

Press release
**Portuguese hydrographical ship “Schultz Xavier” participates
in the Steadfast Jaguar 2006 exercise**

The hydrographical ship “Schultz Xavier” left Lisbon Naval Base on the 21st of May, 2006, and arrived at “Porto Grande”, Sao Vicente Island, Cape Verde, on the 29th of May.



The aim of this mission was to be achieved in two distinct phases: the first had to do with the hydrographical survey of “Porto Grande” Bay. The aim of this activity was to produce, in the near future, the Nautical Chart of this harbour. This activity was previously agreed between the Portuguese and Cape Verdean governments. For this the ship embarked a hydrographical team consisting of 5 people as well as a logistics support team from the Hydrographical Institute.

The hydrographical survey of the harbour started on the 1st of June and lasted two weeks.

The second phase of this mission started on the 14th of June. The ship participated in the operational organisation for the exercise, together with the HMS Roebuck. The aim was to gather hydrographical information, in order to develop the Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) to be provided to CTF 506 – COMSPMARFOR.

Integrated in the exercise, “Schultz Xavier” also participated in the topographical survey of Flamengo and Palha Carga beaches, both situated on the south coast of Sao Vicente Island. For this activity, a combined team consisting of members from both “Schultz Xavier” and HMS Roebuck was created.

At Mindelo bay the ship’s diving team evaluated two ship wrecks considered dangerous for the navigation.

The Schultz Xavier embarked five sonar decoys originally from the German ship FQS Rhein. These sonar decoys were later launched into the water, simulating the setting of mines. This simulation allowed the Task Group (anti-mines team) to conduct their exercise.

On the 24th of June Schultz Xavier embarked an arbitrary team for the exercise, to evaluate the decision process of the NRF-7 command in an unexpected scenario related to terrorist actions. The Portuguese ship simulated a collision against a mine at Mindelo Bay. All emergency positions were established, and all associate procedures of this event were verified.

During the last phase of this exercise, “Schultz Xavier” pretended to be a fishing boat from a fictitious country from an Opposing Force (OPFOR), in order to overcome the embargo which had previously been established by the country of origin.

“Schultz Xavier” is commanded by Lieutenant Commander Humberto Rocha, and has 59 military crew members, which include 6 officers, 8 Sergeants, and 35 enlisted men.