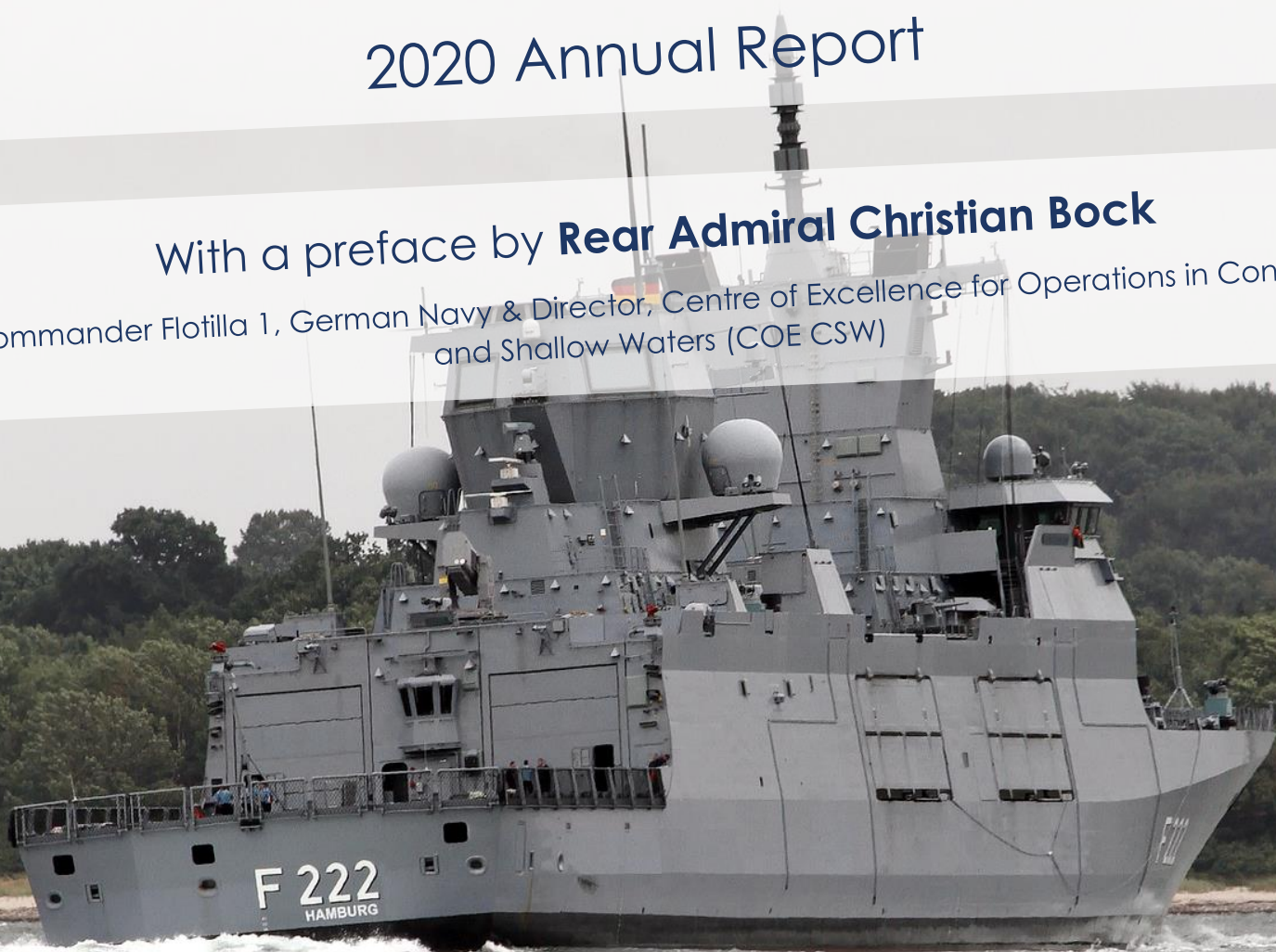


# German Navy Fleet Tracker

## 2020 Annual Report

With a preface by **Rear Admiral Christian Bock**

Commander Flotilla 1, German Navy & Director, Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined  
and Shallow Waters (COE CSW)





## Imprint

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*All other pictures by Helwin Scharn.*

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# German Navy Fleet Tracker

Year 2020 review

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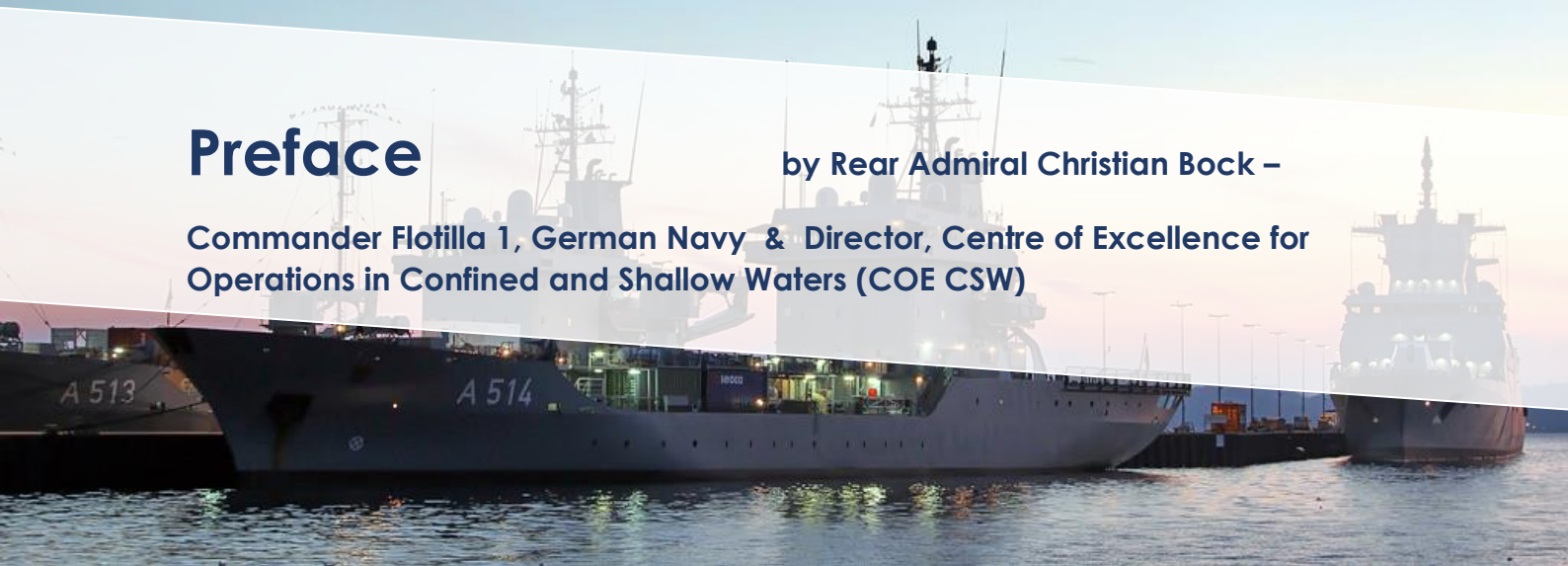
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@SeapowerSeries

# Preface

by Rear Admiral Christian Bock –

Commander Flotilla 1, German Navy & Director, Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters (COE CSW)



Rear Admiral Christian Bock, German Navy; Picture by Bastian Fischborn CC BY-SA 4.0

Out of sight, out of mind. That the navy operates beyond the horizon is a boon and a curse at the same time. On one hand, the appeal of far away seas is still key to attract the daring and adventurous to join the navy's ranks. On the other hand, the significance of the maritime domain for virtually all

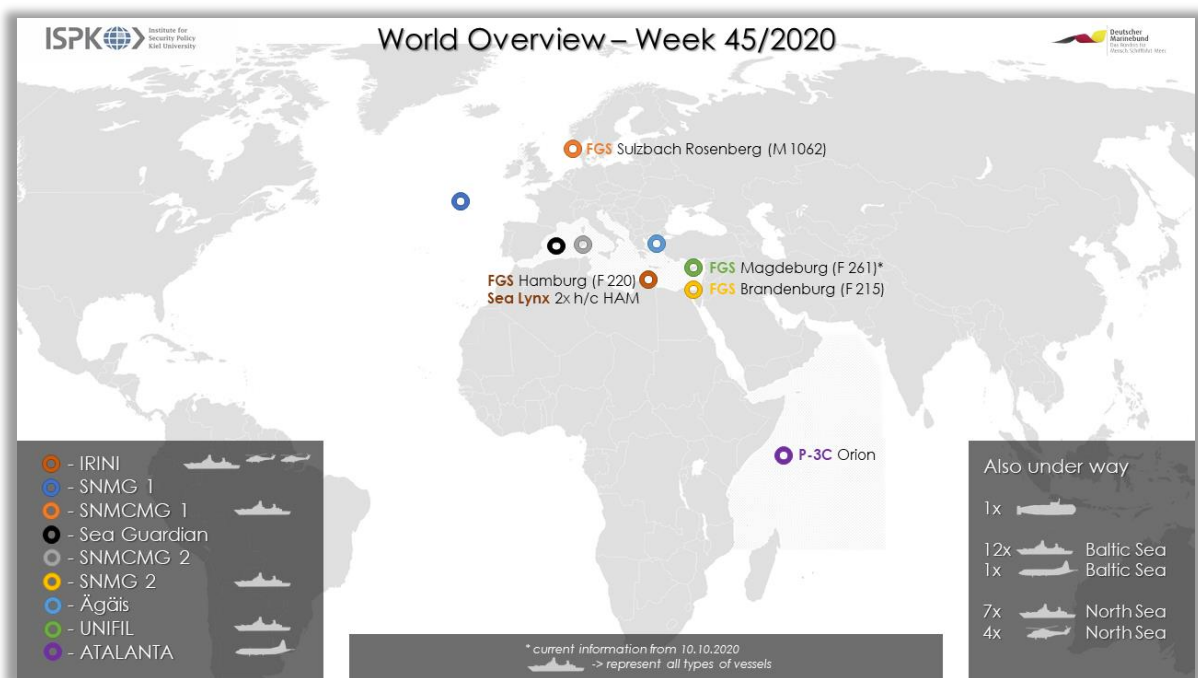
aspects of our everyday life is too far away for most people. The consequence is sea blindness, the obliviousness to all things maritime, and particularly maritime security. Since its inception the [ISPK](#) has set out to bring light into this darkness by providing astute analysis and encouraging discourse. The [German Navy Fleet Tracker](#) contributes yet another aspect by highlighting the actual activities of the German Navy. It illustrates the versatility and the geographic reach of the German Navy and its operational requirements, ranging from long-term, low-intensity crisis response in the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean to exercising for high-intensity operations in the north Atlantic. Thus, the *Fleet Tracker* promises not only to become a go-to for analysts but also to provide decision-makers with a better understanding of the utility and the requirements of a well-balanced fleet.



# German Navy Fleet Tracker

## The idea

The concept of the project was initiated by Dr. Sebastian Bruns, Head of the Center for Maritime Strategy and Security (CMSS) at the Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University (ISPK) Germany. The CMSS is continental Europe's only dedicated maritime strategy and security think tank and focuses on the role of seapower in international relations as well as maritime security and strategy challenges worldwide. The objective was to establish an open-source database about the involvement of the German Navy in national and international operations and exercises. Over the time it therefore became possible to get an overview of German naval operating areas, NATO, EU & UN maritime operations with German participation and major exercises of allies and partner nations. Crucial for the publication of such overviews, is the usage of unclassified data and areas of operation rather than precise



position of the maritime assets. The [German Navy Fleet Tracker](#) is, as all work from ISPK's CMSS, about policy and strategy and not about operational or tactical details.

After several weeks of planning and searching for data, the German Navy Fleet Tracker was born as an open source, unclassified and non-commercial data-set for researchers, political advisers, members of parliaments, the media, members of the German Navy and all persons interested in the German Navy and its assets and operations.

It is published weekly in form of a digital and interactive map that gives an overview of the current operations of every asset of the German Navy. Even more information can get extracted from the overview world-map when using the interactive regional maps displayed with a moving circle over the respective region on the map.

More information about current missions, expeditionary operations, and various other deployments in territorial waters and the near abroad can easily be retrieved.

Not only does the German Navy Fleet Tracker want to make the German Navy more visible for people without access to the sea and therefore less access to the Navy, but also explain, what the German Navy does and thus contribute to a better understanding of the importance of the maritime domain and the naval assets protecting it.

ISPK experts are available via e-mail or telephone to discuss political and strategic details and implications in detail for those who are interested.

The German Navy Fleet Tracker is part of a cooperation between the [Deutscher Marinebund](#), Germany's largest maritime interest group and the Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University that was launched in early 2020 to advance the understanding of German maritime dependence. The cooperation also serves to bridge the gap between maritime political science and naval history.

# German Navy Fleet Tracker

## Overview of the German Navy Fleet



The following lists shows the assets of the German Navy in 2020. Many of these have been included in the German Navy Fleet Tracker 2020. Since the Fleet Tracker started in May of 2020 and has been updated throughout the year, some of the assets listed below, may not be included in the statistics all of the time.

The German Navy commissioned another frigate of the “Baden-Württemberg” class (F 125), the “Nordrhein-Westfalen”. Two more F 125s, the “Sachsen-Anhalt” and “Rheinland-Pfalz” are currently undergoing sea trials and shake-up cruises. The Navy has also started to receive its new “Sea Lion” helicopters.

### 2020 Fleet

FRIGATES	10 frigates in total	
<i>F 122</i>	FGS Lübeck	F 214
<i>F 123</i>	FGS Brandenburg	F 215
	FGS Schleswig-Holstein	F 216
	FGS Bayern	F 217
	FGS Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	F 218
<i>F 124</i>	FGS Sachsen	F 219
	FGS Hamburg	F 220
	FGS Hessen	F 221
<i>F 125</i>	FGS Baden-Württemberg	F 222
	FGS Nordrhein-Westfalen	F 223

**CORVETTES***K130***5 corvettes in total**

FGS Braunschweig	F 260
FGS Magdeburg	F 261
FGS Erfurt	F 262
FGS Oldenburg	F 263
FGS Ludwigshafen am Rhein	F 264

**SUBMARINES***212A***6 submarines in total**

U 31	S 181
U 32	S 182
U 33	S 183
U 34	S 184
U 35	S 185
U 36	S 186

**MINE COUNTERMEASURE***332***12 mine countermeasure vessels in total** (drones not included)

FGS Fulda	M 1058
FGS Weilheim	M 1059
FGS Sulzbach-Rosenberg	M 1062
FGS Bad Bevensen	M 1063
FGS Grömitz	M 1064
FGS Dillingen	M 1065
FGS Datteln	M 1068
FGS Homburg	M 1069

*332B*

FGS Rottweil	M 1061
FGS Bad Rappenau (not included in 2020 statistics)	M 1067

*351 (drones)*

Seehund 1 – Seehund 18 (5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 18 included in 2020 statistics)

*352*

FGS Pegnitz	M 1090
FGS Siegburg	M 1098

**LANDING CRAFT***520***1 landing craft in total**

FGS Lachs (not included in 2020 statistics)	L 762
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**SUPPLY VESSELS**

702

**5 supply vessels in total**

FGS Berlin A 1411

FGS Frankfurt am Main A 1412

FGS Bonn A 1413

704

FGS Spessart A 1442

FGS Rhön A 1443

**TENDER**

404

**6 tenders in total**

FGS Elbe A 511

FGS Mosel A 512

FGS Rhein A 513

FGS Werra A 514

FGS Main A 515

FGS Donau A 516

**TUGBOATS**

660

**10 tug boats in total**

FGS Warnow (not included in 2020 statistics) Y 1659

720

FGS Fehmarn A 1458

722

FGS Wangerooge A 1451

FGS Spiekeroog A 1452

725A

FGS Vogelsand (not included in 2020 statistics) Y 816

FGS Nordstrand (not included in 2020 statistics) Y 817

FGS Langeness (not included in 2020 statistics) Y 819

725B

FGS Lütje Hörn (not included in 2020 statistics) Y 812

FGS Knechtsand (not included in 2020 statistics) Y 814

FGS Scharhörn (not included in 2020 statistics) Y 815

**SPECIAL VESSELS**

754

**4 special vessels in total**

FGS Baltrum (not included in 2020 statistics) A 1439

FGS Juist A 1440

738

FGS Bottsand Y 1643

FGS Eversand Y 1644

**RECONNAISSANCE**

423

**3 reconnaissance vessels in total**

FGS Alster A 50

FGS Oste A 52

FGS Oker (not included in 2020 statistics) A 53

**BARGES**

650

**2 barges in total**

FGS Wische (not included in 2020 statistics) Y 895

730

FGS Knurrhahn (not included in 2020 statistics) Y 811

**RESEARCH VESSELS<sup>C!</sup>**

751

**1 research vessel in total**

FGS Planet (not included in 2020 statistics) A 1437

**TRIAL VESSELS<sup>C!</sup>**

748

**4 trial vessels in total**

FGS Kronsport Y 861

FGS Helmsand Y 862

FGS Mittelgrund Y 864

FGS Breitgrund Y 866

**SECURING VESSELS**

905

**4 securing vessels in total**

FGS Todendorf Y 835

FGS Putlos Y 836

FGS Baumholder Y 837

FGS Münster Y 839

**AIRCRAFT***Patrol and anti-submarine*

Lockheed P-3C "Orion" 8

*Pollution control*

Dornier Do-228NG (not included in 2020 statistics) 2

*SAR*

Westland Mk. 41 "Sea King" (not included in 2020 statistics) 21

*Anti-submarine and h/c*

Westland Mk. .88A "Sea Lynx" 22

*SAR*

NH90 NTH "Sea Lion" 7

*X<sup>C!</sup>: Manned by a civilian crew.*

# German Navy Fleet Tracker

## Operating Areas



The German Navy operates in national and in international waters in the Western hemisphere, by and large. Expeditionary operations under UN, EU, or NATO mandate require parliamentary approval. Training, exercises, and Standing NATO Maritime Group participation are exempt from this. The main operating areas of the German Navy can be found at the official website of the German Bundeswehr. [www.bundeswehr.de/de/organisation/marine](http://www.bundeswehr.de/de/organisation/marine)

As displayed, the most common operating areas are the Baltic and North Sea, as well as the Mediterranean and the Horn of Africa/Western Indian Ocean. Apart from these areas, the German Navy takes part in exercises or missions especially on Europe's Northern flank (the North Atlantic & the Norwegian Sea). More details about the missions and exercises conducted in 2020 can be found in the next chapter.







# German Navy Fleet Tracker

## Missions & Exercises

Most of the missions displayed at the chart on the last page, are long term missions, such as the participation in one of the four NATO Standing Maritime Groups. Apart from these missions, the German Navy takes part in multiple shorter exercises with its allies around the world which can also be found in this chapter.

## Missions

### SNMG 1 & SNMG 2

The Standing NATO Maritime Groups 1 & 2 are part of the fast response teams of NATO. [SNMG 1](#) is mostly operating in the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean while SNMG 2 is operating in the Mediterranean Sea. [SNMG 2](#) is also patrolling at the Aegean region from time to time. The German Navy has been participating at SNMG 1 for several weeks with auxiliary vessels (tankers, tenders) as well as an helicopter on board a Portuguese frigate. In 2020, it was permanently participating in SNMG 2 and providing the command platform for NATO AEGEAN ACTIVITY using a Berlin-class fast combat support ship which was later relieved by a frigate. The AEGEAN ACTIVITY is conducted by a task unit of the task group SNMG 2.

### SNMCMG 1 & SNMCMG 2

The Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Maritime Groups 1 & 2 are part of NATO's approach for mine warfare and the detection and removal of dumped ammunition/unexploded ordinance. The operating areas are similar to the ones above. The German Navy provided one minehunter to [SNMCMG 2](#) in February which was later reassigned to [SNMCMG 1](#). It has been present at SNMCMG 1 for most of the year with at least one mine countermeasures (MSM) vessel at a time as well as an auxiliary vessel.

## **ATALANTA**

**EU NAVFOR ATALANTA** is a mission of the European Union to protect the World Food Programme (WFP) at the Horn of Africa and secure the important waterways against piracy. The German Navy has been present at the mission with a P-3C Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) for most of the year.

## **IRINI**

**EUNAVFOR MED IRINI** is a mission of the European Union to effectively monitor the UN arms embargo against Libya in the Mediterranean Sea. The German Navy has supported the mission since its beginning in April of 2020 with a patrol aircraft and thereafter a frigate with two onboard helicopters.

## **UNIFIL**

The **United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon** is an observer mission since 1978. The mission has a land and maritime based part at which the German Navy has been present since 2006, its inception. In 2020, the German Navy provided a corvette at any one time, also conducting a relief mission after the catastrophic silo explosion in Beirut on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

## **Other missions**

The German Navy routinely operates with allies and in the national context in areas such as the Baltic Sea, the North Sea, and the North Atlantic. Some of these operations remain classified (such as submarines deployments) and are therefore beyond the scope of this report.

## **Exercises<sup>1</sup>**

### **OPEN SPIRIT**

Mine countermeasures exercise in the Baltic Sea. 1 Auxiliary and 3 Mine Countermeasures vessels of the German Navy

### **SWENEX**

Swedish Exercise taking part in the Baltic Sea and the Skagerak. One replenishment oiler of the German Navy took part with SNMG 1. Sweden sent 15 warships and 80 small boats.

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<sup>1</sup> Data collection of exercises & missions started in Week 20 of 2020.

## **BALTOPS 2020**

Annual exercise usually organized by U.S. Naval Forces Europe and held in June at the Baltic Sea. The German Navy sent one maritime patrol aircraft, two helicopters, one frigate, one replenishment oiler, two tenders and two mine countermeasures vessels.

## **DYNAMIC MONGOOSE**

A NATO exercise especially to train anti-submarine warfare in the waters around Iceland. The German Navy sent one submarine to the exercise consisting of five warships, five submarines and five patrol aircrafts.

## **3 MINE WARFARE SQUADRON SQUADEX**

The exercise was conducted by the German Navy in the Baltic Sea and the Norwegian Sea, crossing the Polar Circle with one tender and six mine countermeasures vessels.

## **Missile Firing Exercise**

Annual exercise by the German Navy conducted in Norwegian waters during August and September. Two frigates, one corvette, four helicopters, one patrol aircraft and an auxiliary vessel of the German Navy formed a substantial task group together with one Norwegian frigate.

## **GEREX**

The German Exercise 2020 replaced the Exercise Northern Coast which was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. GEREX operated in the Baltic Sea and consisted of one tender, one submarine, one P-3 C Orion, Sea King and Sea Lynx, one frigate, one minehunter (all from the German Navy) and the vessels of SNMG 1 as well as one warship of the Estonian navy.

## **Vision 2020**

A German Navy Exercise in October which trained anti-submarine warfare. It consisted of one submarine, two frigates, two helicopters, one research vessel and a patrol aircraft.

## **1 CORVETTE SQUADRON SQUADEX**

In November, the German Navy conducted a SQUADEX exercise with one tender and three corvettes.



# German Navy Fleet Tracker

## Monthly Data

In this chapter you will find the monthly data of which assets of the German Navy have been part of which mission or exercise. Be aware, that some of the assets and exercises may not have been deployed or going on for a complete month.

For more detailed information, check out the archive of the German Navy Fleet Tracker. The following data is displayed in the corresponding colors that can be found in the classification on the World Map on page 7 and at the online maps of the Fleet Tracker.

### MONTHLY DATA

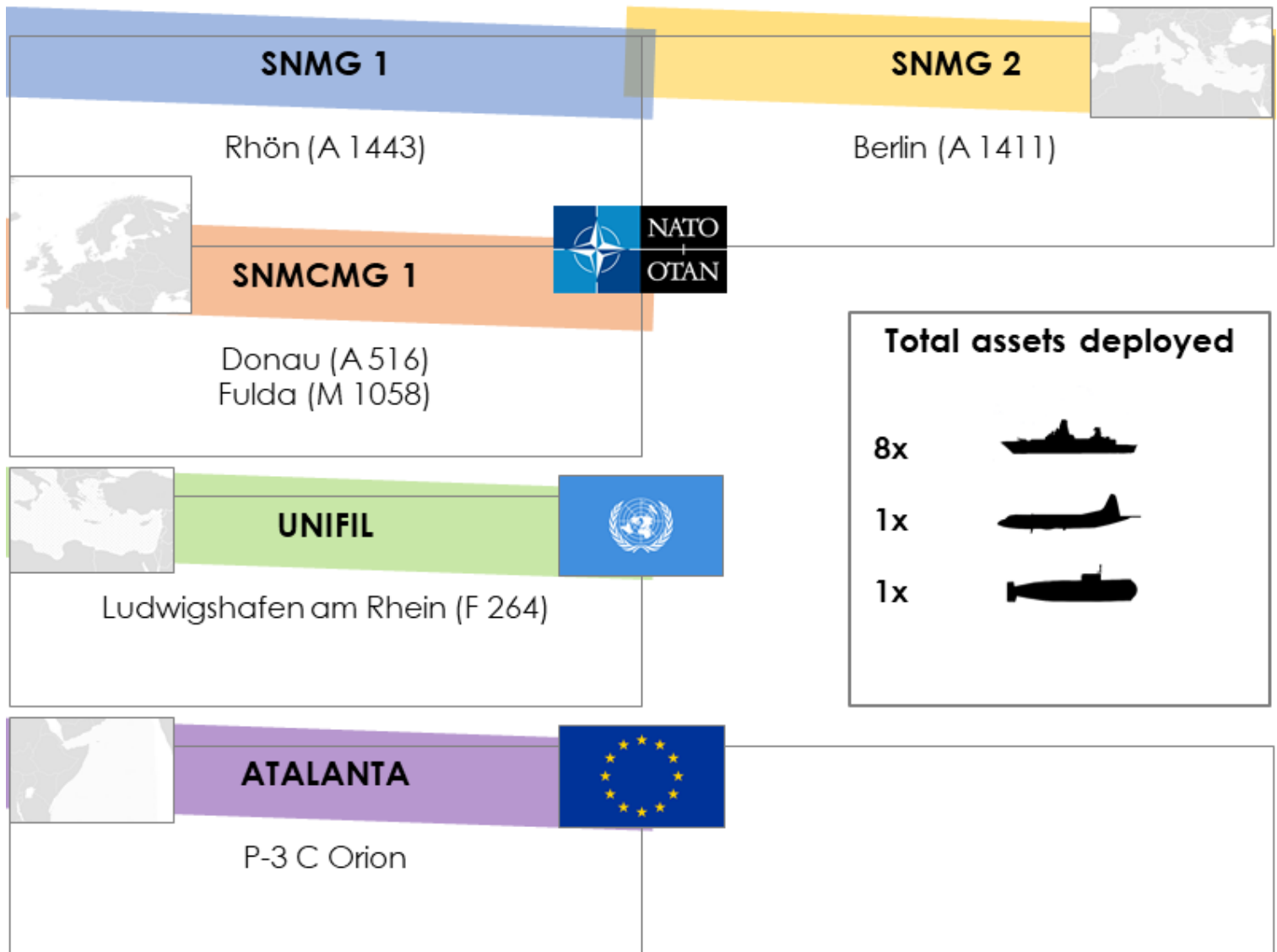
The German Navy is currently the smallest it has ever been. Operating with 46 ships (not including the Auxiliary Fleet) is has to meet a wide and differing range of tasks in different geographical areas from the High North over the Baltic and the Mediterranean Seas, as well as the Atlantic Ocean to the Horn of Africa and even the Indian Ocean in the next year. The performance of the German Navy under these circumstances is even more impressive considering the data displayed on the next pages, showing that up to 17 vessels of the German Navy plus two of its six patrol aircrafts where conducting exercises or deployed in missions outside national waters during peak operation times. Including the vessels operating in national waters during that time, a total number of 38 ships were underway during the month of August 2020. Altogether, 62 of the 67<sup>2</sup> vessels tracked since May 2020 have been underway in the last six months of the last year and thereby made an important contribution to national and allied defense, the security of waterways and the international peace. While the following graphics only show assets deployed in international missions and exercises, you can find all the other vessels, planes and helicopters at the online pages of the German Navy Fleet Tracker at: [www.kielseapowerseries.com](http://www.kielseapowerseries.com) or following the QR-code.



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<sup>2</sup> The German Navy Fleet Tracker 2021 will track even more vessels

May 2020



### Other exercises/missions

#### OPEN SPIRIT

Donau (A 516) – Datteln (M 1068) – Grömitz (M 1064) – Weilheim (M 1059)

#### SWENEX

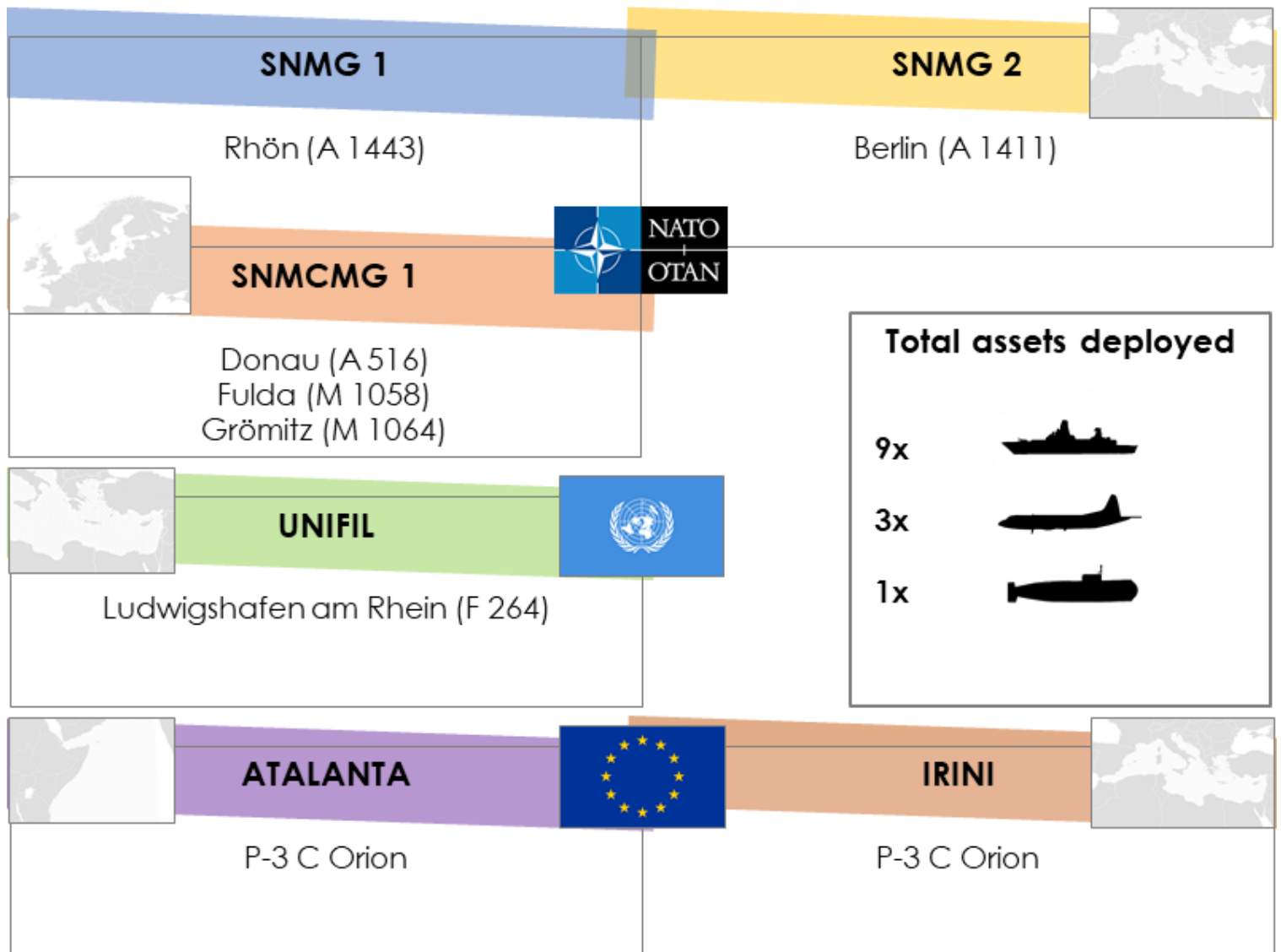
Rhön (A 1443) as part of SNMG 1

#### Independent Patrol

U 33

\*only the assets in international missions or national/international exercises are displayed. Further assets are underway in national waters.

June 2020



### Other exercises/missions

#### BALTOPS

Lübeck (F 214) – Werra (A 514) – Donau (A 516) – Weilheim (M 1059) – Grömitz (M 1064) – P-3 C Orion

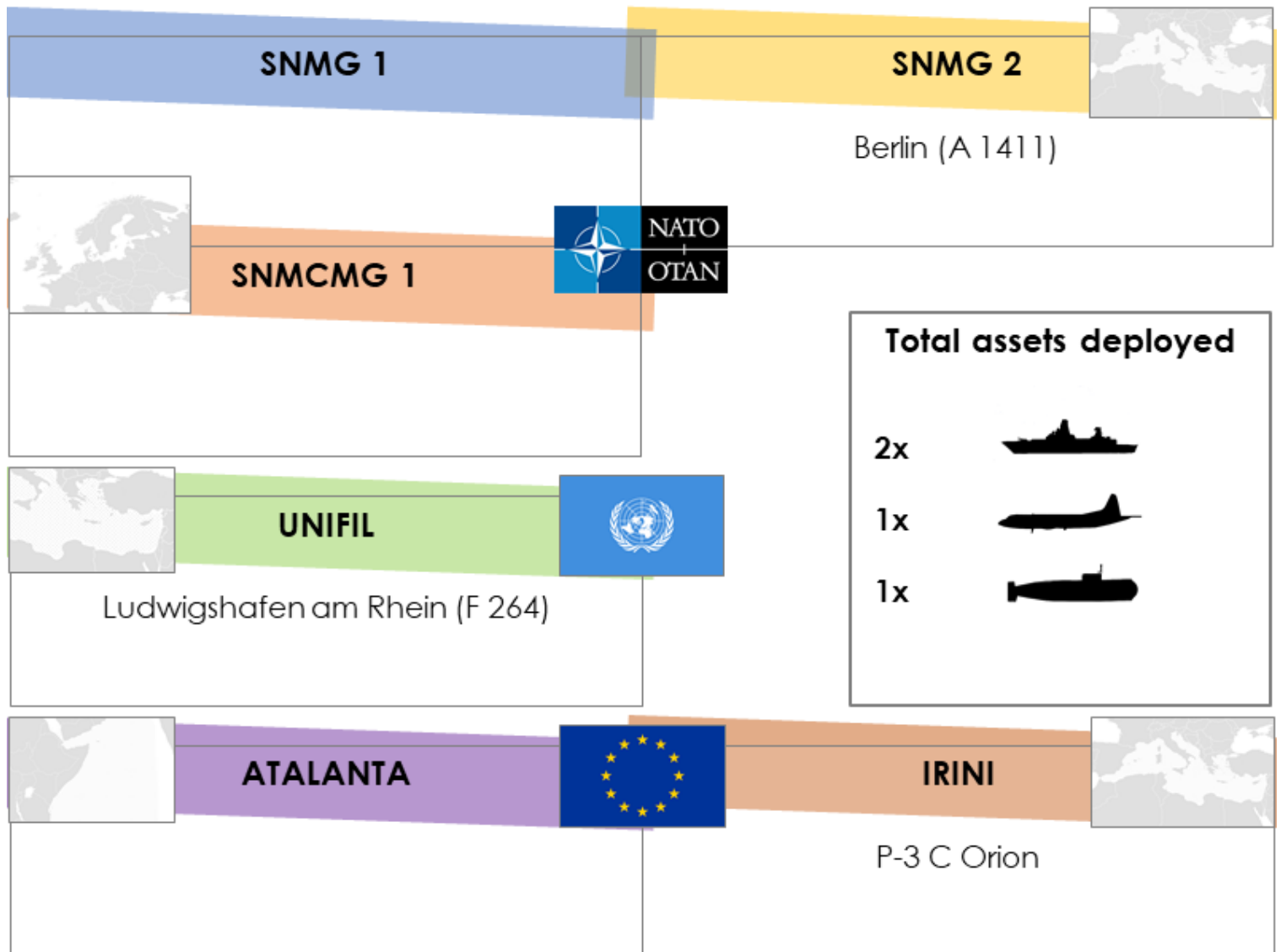
#### DYNAMIC MONGOOSE

U 36

\*only the assets in international missions or national/international exercises are displayed. Further assets are underway in national waters.



July 2020



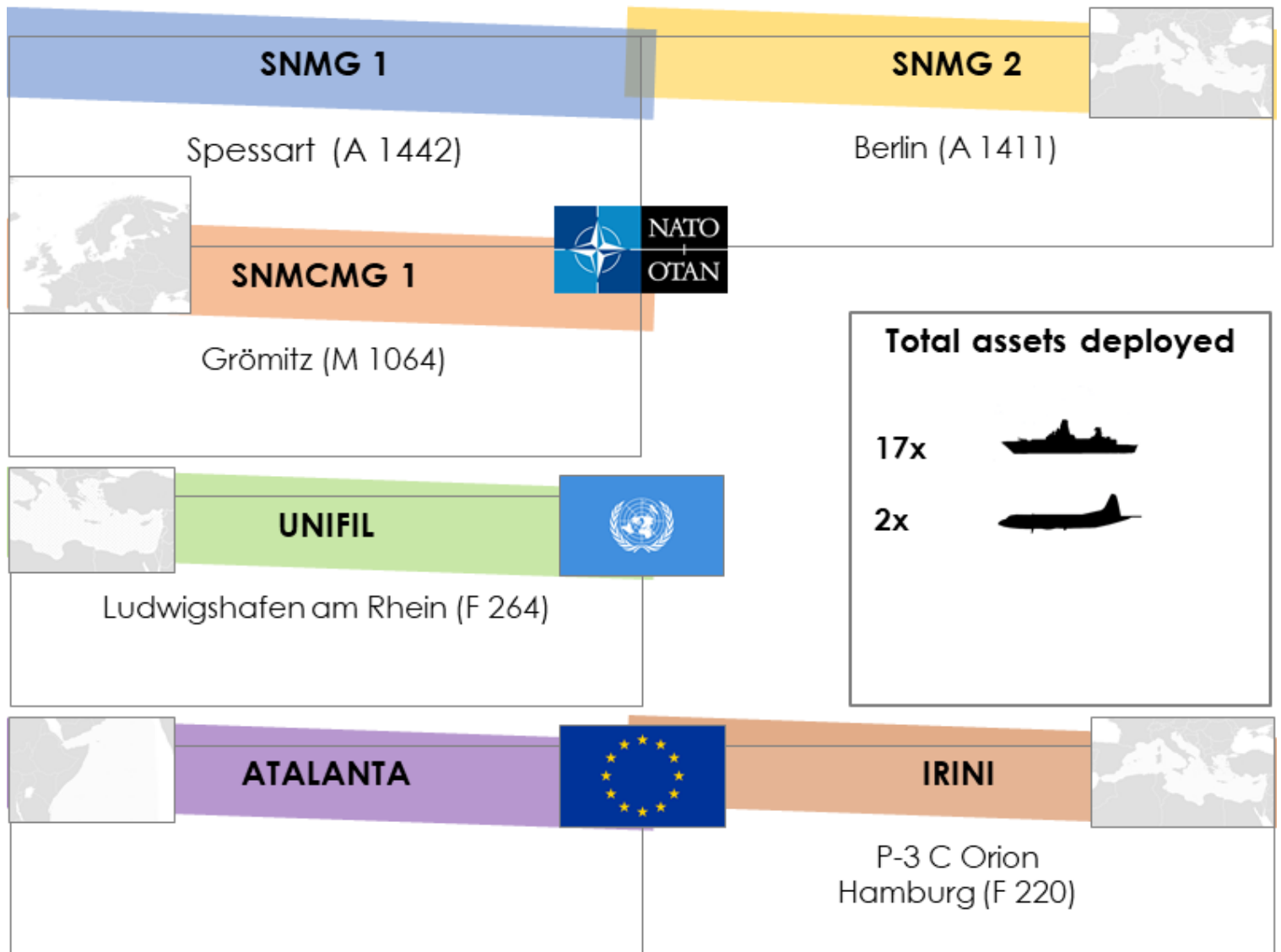
### Other exercises/missions

#### DYNAMIC MONGOOSE

U 36

\*only the assets in international missions or national/international exercises are displayed. Further assets are underway in national waters.

## August 2020



### Other exercises/missions

#### 3 MINE WARFARE SQUADRON SQUADEX

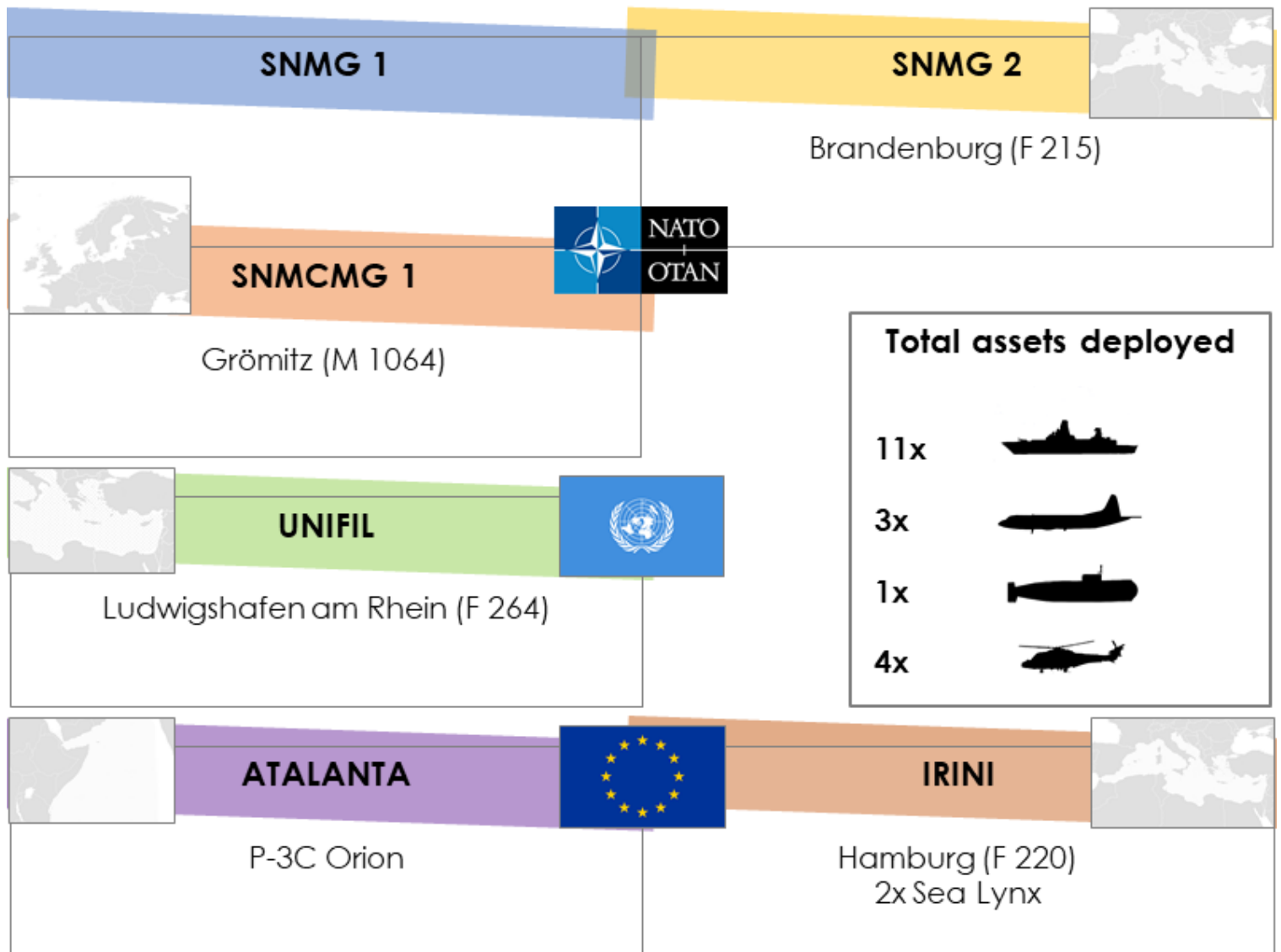
Werra (A 514) - Fulda (M 1058) - Rottweil (M 1061) - Weilheim (M 1059) - Sulzbach-Rosenberg (M 1062) - Datteln (M 1068) - Bad Bevensen (M 1063) - Homburg (M 1069)

#### MISSILE FIRING EXERCISE

Erfurt (F 262) – Helmsand (Y 862) – Lübeck (F 214) – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (F 218)  
P-3 C Orion

\*only the assets in international missions or national/international exercises are displayed. Further assets are underway in national waters.

September 2020



### Other exercises/missions

#### GEREX

Werra (A 514) - Homburg (M 1069) – U 33 – Sea Lynx – Sea King – P-3 C Orion –  
Nordrhein-Westfalen (F 223)

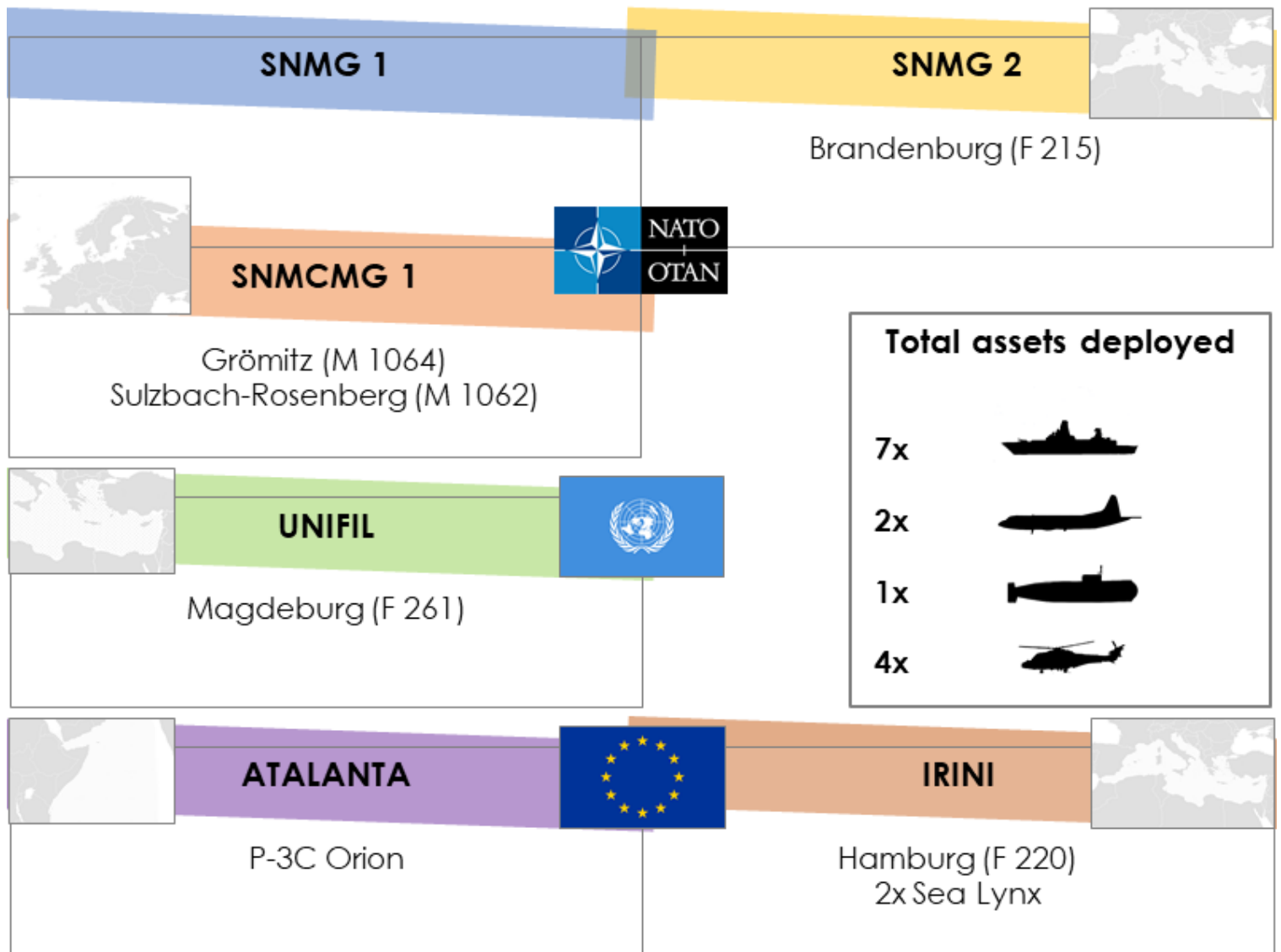
#### MISSILE FIRING EXERCISE

Erfurt (F 262) – Helmsand (Y 862) – Lübeck (F 214) – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (F 218)  
P-3 C Orion

\*only the assets in international missions or national/international exercises are displayed. Further assets are underway in national waters.



## October 2020



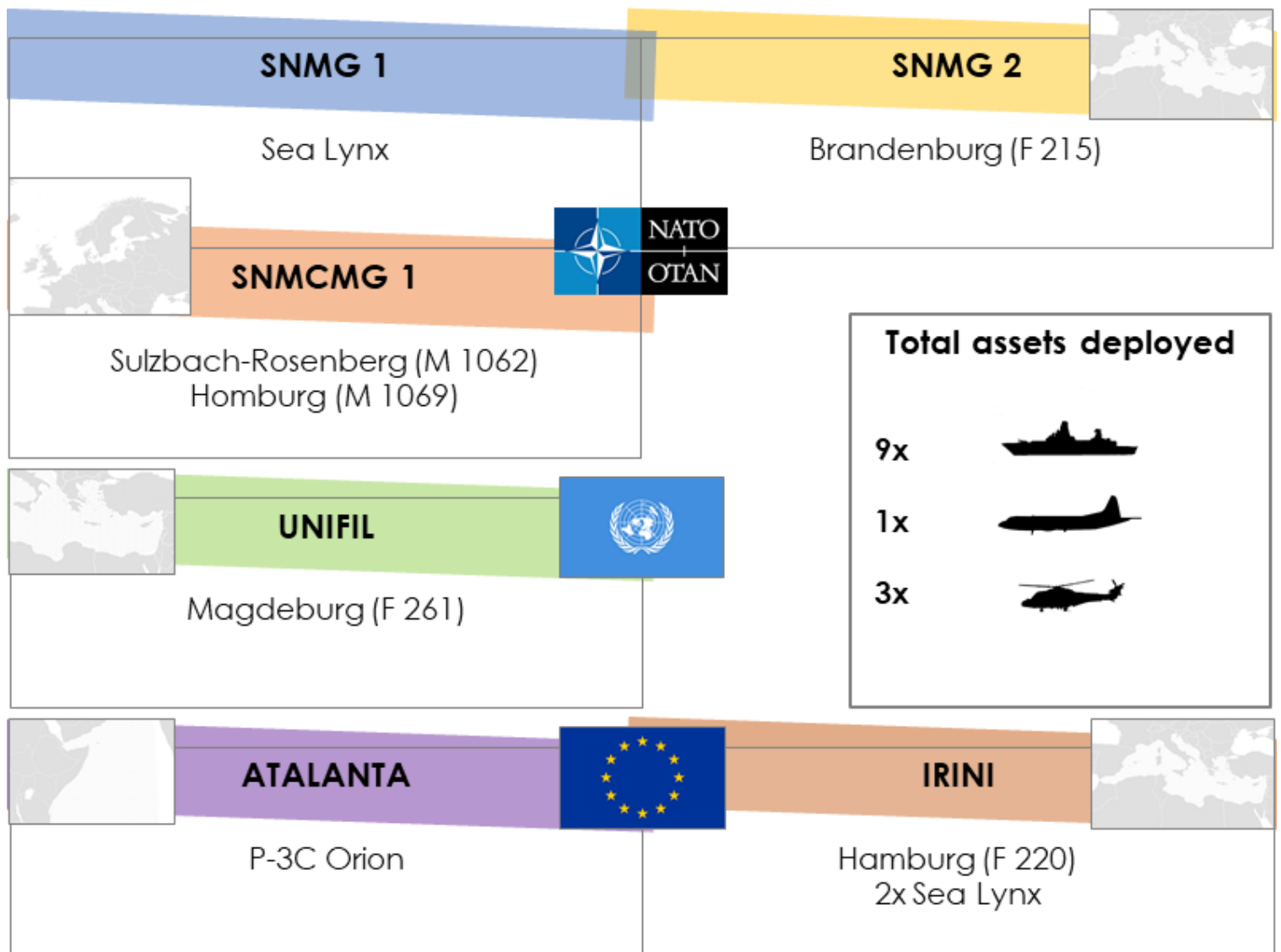
### Other exercises/missions

#### Vision 2020

U 33 – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (F 218) – Lübeck (F214) – Planet (Research vessel) – 2x Sea Lynx – P-3 C Orion

\*only the assets in international missions or national/international exercises are displayed. Further assets are underway in national waters.

## November 2020



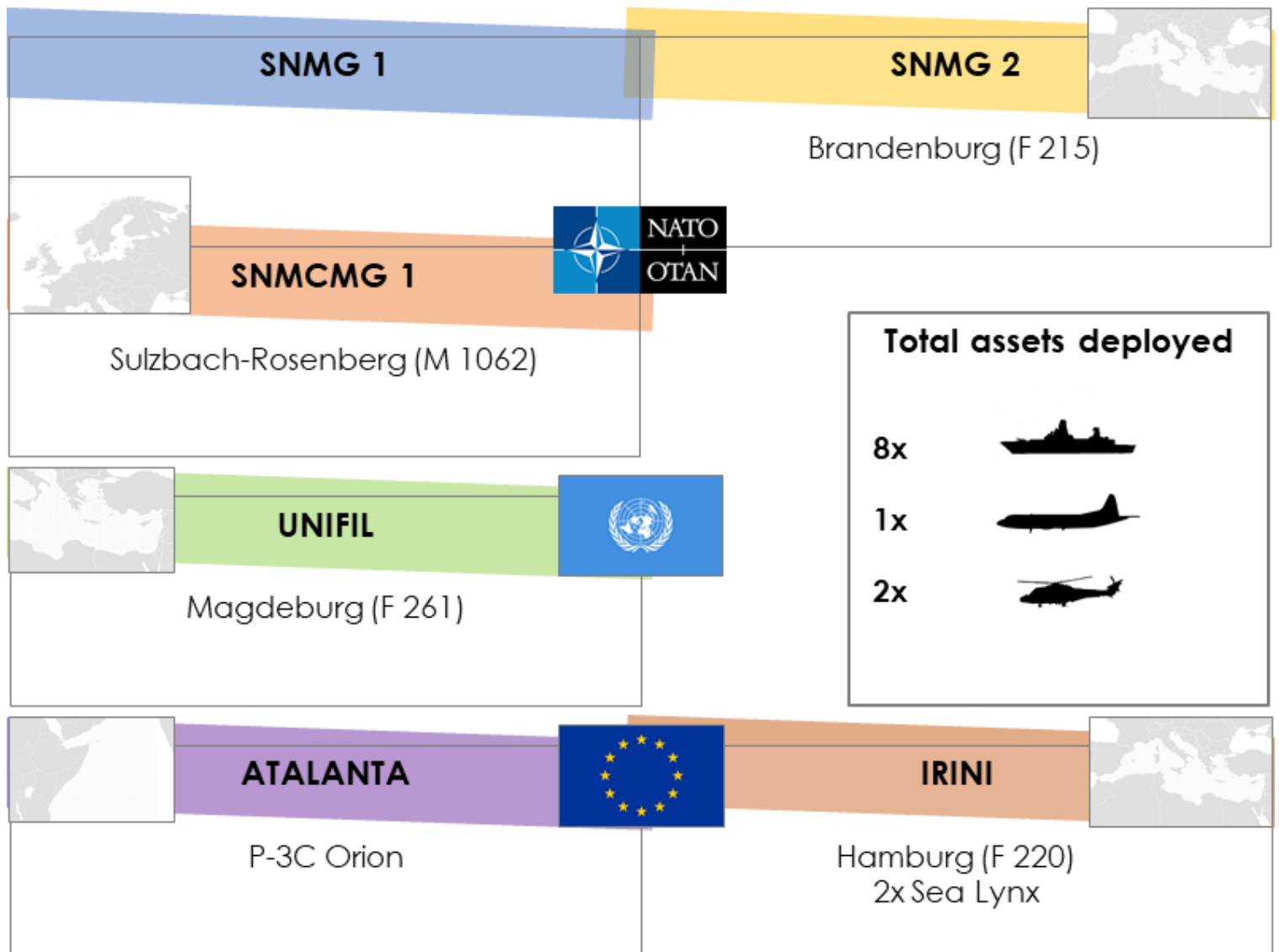
## Other exercises/missions

## 1 CORVETTE SQUADRON SQUADEX

Donau (A 516) – Braunschweig (F 260) – Erfurt (F 262) – Ludwigshafen am Rhein (F 264)

\*only the assets in international missions or national/international exercises are displayed. Further assets are underway in national waters.

## December 2020



## Other exercises/missions

**1 CORVETTE SQUADRON SQUADEX**

Donau (A 516) – Braunschweig (F 260) – Erfurt (F 262) – Ludwigshafen am Rhein (F 264)

\*only the assets in international missions or national/international exercises are displayed. Further assets are underway in national waters.

# German Navy Fleet Tracker

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<https://mc.nato.int/SNMG2>

<https://mc.nato.int/snmcmg1>

<https://mc.nato.int/snmcmg2>

[https://www.operationirini.eu/media\\_category/assets/?deployment=any&tax=media\\_category&categories=&nation=&search\\_archive=filter](https://www.operationirini.eu/media_category/assets/?deployment=any&tax=media_category&categories=&nation=&search_archive=filter)

<https://www.bundeswehr.de/de/organisation/marine/einsatz>

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using [marinetraffic.com](https://marinetraffic.com) for the vessel tracking

Pictures on facebook/twitter/www.kielseapowerseries.com/annual GNFT report by Helwin Scharn

Pictures of the vessels by the authors named on the pictures retrieved at marinetraffic.com, NATO, EUNAVFOR

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*for more information and sources, contact us at [www.kielseapowerseries.com](https://www.kielseapowerseries.com)*