

# News Release



**Allied Maritime  
Component Command  
Headquarters Northwood**



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## **NATO WARSHIP HDMS ABSALON DISRUPTS PIRACY AGAIN**

**London:** On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010 Danish warship HDMS Absalon who is part of NATO's counter-piracy Operation *Ocean Shield* once again disrupted piracy in the Gulf of Aden. During the night HDMS Absalon located a suspicious 'contact' on radar. By using the ship's sensors the contact was identified as a fast moving open boat with eight men onboard – a typical indication of a pirate skiff. As the boarding team from Absalon approached the skiff the pirates tried to escape. The boarding party took up the pursuit and stopped the skiff using non lethal means, including signal flares. The boarding team found AK-47 assault rifles, a hand gun, rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) and a launcher, a boarding ladder and plenty of fuel onboard the skiff, which was fitted with twin outboard engines. All weapons, the ladder and one outboard engine were seized and taken onboard HDMS Absalon. A handheld GPS system was also seized and the data downloaded.

"This incident demonstrates once again the importance of NATO warships patrolling the Gulf of Aden and the International Recommended Transit Corridor. Having NATO warships, along with Combined Maritime Force 151 and the EU Naval Force, together with other nations patrolling these waters is making a real difference and shows the need for a deployable naval capacity in order to be able to disrupt piracy in the region," remarked Commodore Rune.

### **Notes to editors**

1. The NATO Task Force (TF) 508 is one of three coalition task forces operating in the fight against piracy. TF 508 consists presently of three ships:
  - HDMS ABSALON (flagship, Royal Danish Navy)
  - USS BOONE (United States Navy)
  - HMS CHATHAM (Royal Navy)

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