

News Release



**Allied Maritime
Component Command
Headquarters Northwood**



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NATO WARSHIP ASSISTS INDIAN CARGO SHIP AFTER PIRATE ATTACK

Danish warship HDMS Absalon, who is part of NATO's Operation Ocean Shield, today rendered assistance to an Indian flagged cargo ship (known as a dhow). The dhow "Faize Osamani" and her crew of 12 had been taken by Somali pirates with the intention of using her as a mother-ship to mount further attacks against maritime shipping.

Working closely with maritime partners EUNAVFOR and Combined Maritime Force 151 to gather maritime intelligence, HDMS Absalon shadowed the dhow ensuring that the pirates onboard could not use it to launch further attacks. Realising that NATO forces were close by, the pirates abandoned the dhow. HDMS Absalon's sailors were then able to provide first aid, food, fuel and water to the relieved Indian crew and repair the dhow's damaged rudder ensuring that it was safe and seaworthy.

Speaking about the assistance given to the dhow, Commodore Rune (Royal Danish Navy) who is in charge of NATO's Task Force 508 on HDMS Absalon commented "This operation demonstrates that NATO's presence in the Gulf of Aden is disrupting pirates. This was a good day for both HDMS Absalon and Faize Osamani – it means NATO has prevented likely acts of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and one happy Indian crew no longer in the hands of pirates."

ENDS

Notes to editors

1. The four ships comprising SNMG1 are:

- HDMS Absalon (flagship, Danish Navy)
- HMCS Fredericton (Canadian Navy)
- USS Boone (USA Navy)
- HMS Chatham (UK Navy)

2. Permanently assigned to NATO, STANDING NATO MARITIME GROUP 1 (SNMG1) is a multi-national Naval Group that provides the NATO Alliance with the ability to quickly respond to crisis situations anywhere in the world. A capable, stand-alone task group, SNMG1 is one of four standing maritime elements that form a flexible core around which NATO can build a larger force to meet a wide range of

Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1)

missions that will include non-combatant evacuations, consequence management, counter terrorism, crisis response, embargo operations, etc.

3. The SNMG 1 is currently deployed to the Gulf Of Aden for Operation Ocean Shield, NATO's counter piracy operation, working alongside EU and Coalition partners. HDMS ABSALON and CDRE Rune's command of SNMG1 confirms that the Royal Danish Navy is taking the safeguarding of our sea lines of communication seriously hence contributing to a safer maritime environment.

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