

News Release



**Allied Maritime
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NATO Commander meets Republic of Korea Navy in the Gulf of Aden

London: On 13th February 2010 NATO Commander, Commodore Christian Rune met Captain Kim, Myung-Sung, the Commanding Officer of the Republic of Korea Navy destroyer CHUNG MUGONG YI SUN-SHIN, onboard the NATO flagship HDMS ABSALON.

“This is yet another building block to counter the piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the Somali Basin. It shows how seriously piracy acts are seen by nations around the world. I was very pleased to meet with my partners from the Republic of Korea Navy today and I appreciate their cooperation with NATO as we work together to suppress piracy,” said Cdre Rune.

The Republic of Korea is working together with NATO, the Coalition Maritime Force, EU and other individual nations to patrol the pirate infested waters of the Gulf of Aden. Captain Kim has two tasks; the first is to escort and ensure the safety of South Korean merchant shipping in the Gulf of Aden and the second is to participate in counter piracy operations when dedicated escorts are not taking place.

As NATO is present in the Gulf of Aden the Republic of Korea Navy will in the near future work even more closely together with the NATO Task Force in counter piracy operations when an Admiral of the Republic of Korea takes over Command of Coalition Maritime Task Force 151 in April 2010. The meeting in ABSALON was therefore welcomed and provides an example of how navies from different parts of the world with the same objectives smoothly can integrate and exchange information and experiences.

Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1)

Notes to editors

1. The NATO task force TF 508 is one out 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)
2. The South Korean destroyer CHUNGMUGONG YI SUN-SHIN (DDH 975) was commissioned in 2003 and is the first of a class of six destroyers in the Republic of Korea Navy.

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