

News Release



**Allied Maritime Command
Headquarters Northwood**



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NATO continues to disrupt pirate activity

It was yet another busy night for the Danish warship HDMS ABSALON in the Somali Basin the night between the 1st and 2nd of March 2010 where the ship again located, intercepted and disposed of two more “whalers” the so called mother skiffs used by pirates as logistic platforms to transport their attack teams offshore.

“These actions further illustrate that this is a viable and effective way to eliminate the tools of piracy before they can be brought into play on the high seas,” said Commodore Christian Rune.

In the early evening the first whaler was located, intercepted and boarded and later during the night the same happened for the second mother skiff. The mother skiffs were found fully loaded with pirate equipment and supplies, there was no evidence of any type of fishing equipment on board.

Evidence gathering was then conducted and the suspected pirates were set off at the Somali coastline, after which the mother skiffs were disposed of by ABSALON's ordnance disposal team. A total of three pirate mother skiffs have been intercepted and disposed of by HDMS ABSALON over the past few days.

HDMS Absalon is the flagship of NATO's task force in the region.

At the request of the UN in late 2008, NATO started to provide escorts to UN World Food Programme vessels transiting through the Somali Basin. This operation has now been

Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1)

succeeded by Operation Ocean Shield, which as well as deterring and disrupting pirate activity additionally offers training to regional countries in developing their own capacity to combat piracy activities.

NATO is conducting counter-piracy activities in full complementarity with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions (1816, 1838, 1846, 1851 and 1897) and in coordination with other international actors including the European Union.

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)

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