

# News Release



**Allied Maritime  
Command  
Headquarters  
Northwood**



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## Navy Task Groups Work Together to Attack Piracy

**London:** Warships from NATO's counter piracy mission, code-named Operation Ocean Shield, together with warships from the EU Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) and Combined Maritime Force (CMF) are increasingly working together in the waters of the Somali Basin to deter and disrupt attacks from pirate gangs, who prowl the vast sea area to hijack innocent vessels.

Whilst the Gulf of Aden has seen a drop in piracy over the last year, due in part to the warship patrols from maritime nations, pirate attacks in the Somali Basin (an area the size of Australia), have risen in recent months.

To help combat this rise in pirate attacks, NATO and her maritime partners are forging ever closer cooperation and coordination, and as a result in the last month 23 pirate gangs have been disrupted in the Somali Basin. Indeed, in the last week, a sharing of intelligence between the forces, helped NATO ship Gelibolu, the EU's Tromp and CMF's Farragut successfully target 8 pirate gangs between them.

Speaking about the increased cooperation between the naval task groups in the Somali Basin, NATO's Rear Admiral Hank Ort, who is based at NATO's maritime headquarters, Northwood, London said "Piracy is a menace; innocent seafarers and ships carrying goods and food for the world markets are being targeted, it is crucial that navies work together and coordinate their efforts".

**Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2)**

Ends

**Notes to editors**

1. The NATO Task Force 508 conducting Operation Ocean Shield is one out of three coalition task forces operating in the fight against piracy. TF 508 consists presently of five ships:

HMS CHATHAM (Flagship - Royal Navy)

USS COLE (US Navy)

TCG GELIBOLU (Turkish Navy)

HS LIMNOS (Greek Navy)

ITS SCIROCCO (Italian Navy)

2. Background: 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 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.

3. NATO is conducting counter-piracy activities in compliance with UN Security Council Resolutions (1816, 1838, 1846, 1851 and 1897).

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