

# News Release



**Allied Maritime  
Command  
Headquarters  
Northwood**



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## **NATO Warship Limnos Disrupts Pirates**

Greek warship HS LIMNOS, who is part of NATO's counter piracy mission, codenamed OCEAN SHIELD, successfully intercepted and disrupted a pirate gang in the Indian Ocean yesterday.

The NATO warship had been on patrol to the north of the Seychelles when pirates in a large whaler towing 2 smaller skiffs, was spotted by a Swedish maritime patrol aircraft. As HS LIMNOS approached the vessel, the ship's helicopter was launched and observed the pirates throwing weapons, ladders and other piracy equipment into the sea.

On arrival, the ship's boarding party rapidly took control of the 10 pirates. A thorough search of the boats was then conducted to ensure the pirates could no longer pose a threat to merchant shipping in the area.

HS LIMNOS Operations officer, Lt P Sarantinos GRN said,

"Being vigilant, decisive, and adaptive – these are the fundamental pillars of our operations in this area. NATO is determined to deter and disrupt the pirate threat and HS LIMNOS is ready to prove it, wherever and whenever it is required."

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

## Notes to editors

1. HS LIMNOS disrupted another pirate gang on 1 April 2010
2. 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)
3. 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.
4. NATO is conducting counter-piracy activities in compliance with UN Security Council Resolutions (1816, 1838, 1846, 1851 and 1897) and in coordination with other international actors including the European Union.

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