

# News Release



**Allied Maritime  
Command Headquarters  
Northwood**



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## **NATO WARSHIP ESBERN SNARE DISRUPTS PIRACY IN GULF OF ADEN**

LONDON: Only two days after the latest pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden, Danish warship ESBERN SNARE disrupted a group of suspected pirates in a skiff believed to be preparing for an attack. The pirates were initially detected by a Japanese maritime patrol aircraft in the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) in the Gulf of Aden. ESBERN SNARE's helicopter fired warning shots in front of the skiff to force the suspected pirates to stop. The suspected pirates finally stopped after a shot was fired through the bow of the skiff.

Prior to ESBERN SNARE's boarding team arrival, the helicopter crew observed the suspected pirates throwing their attack ladder and weapons, including a rocket propelled grenade overboard. Seven suspected pirates were apprehended and pirate related paraphernalia was confiscated by ESBERN SNARE's boarding team.

Captain Carsten Fjord-Larsen, the Commanding Officer of ESBERN SNARE commented that: "The pirates don't seem to realise the danger they put themselves in by not complying with our orders. My team did a great job today to safely compel the suspected pirates from attacking high risk merchant vessels transiting in the Gulf of Aden".

End text.

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## **Background Information:**

NATO has contributed to the international counter piracy effort off the Horn of Africa since December 2008. The mission has expanded from escorting UN and World Food Programme Shipping under Operation Allied Provider and protecting merchant traffic in the Gulf of Aden under Operation Allied Protector. In addition to these activities and as part of the latest mission, Operation Ocean Shield, NATO is working with other international bodies to help develop capacity of countries in the region to tackle piracy on their own.

Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 is permanently assigned to NATO. It 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 and 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 missions that will include non-combatant evacuations, consequence management, counter terrorism, crisis response, embargo operations, etc.

NATO has recently announced its continuing commitment to counter-piracy by extending Operation Ocean Shield to December 2012.

NATO Task Forces currently in Operation Ocean Shield:

HDMS ESBERN SNARE (Flagship) - Denmark  
HMS MONTROSE – United Kingdom  
USS KAUFFMAN – United States of America

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