

# News Release



**Allied Maritime  
Command Headquarters  
Northwood**



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## **US WARSHIP KAUFFMAN SAILS FOR HOME AFTER COMPLETING NATO COUNTER PIRACY OPERATIONS**

US warship KAUFFMAN has set sail for home after completing more than 4 months on NATO's counter piracy operation 'Ocean Shield' off the Horn of Africa.

During the last 4 months USS KAUFFMAN disrupted 4 pirate attacks on merchant shipping and disarmed 17 suspected pirates in the process. Following one attack on 1 November 2010, KAUFFMAN came to the aid of the crew from merchant vessel *Go Trader*, after the master put out a 'may day' call to say his ship was being hijacked by armed men. USS KAUFFMAN raced to the scene, and after conducting a full search of the ship, they were able to confirm that the pirates had fled. Only then did the crew feel safe enough to leave their "safe room".

NATO warships work together with other international maritime forces to disrupt pirate attacks off the Horn of Africa. The counter piracy operations range from patrolling the busy shipping lanes in the Gulf of Aden, suppressing sea activities from the piracy camps on the East coast of Somalia and disrupting piracy attacks in the central and western Indian Ocean.

KAUFFMAN cooperated with other NATO units as well as ships and aircraft from the European Union and Coalition Task Forces and forces from independent deployers.

"KAUFFMAN has made a remarkable contribution to NATO's counter piracy effort. It has been a pleasure to work with the US crew, who have done a spectacular job over the last 4 months in what is, a very challenging environment" stated Commodore Christian Rune, Royal Danish Navy, Commander of NATO's counter-piracy Task Force.

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**Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1)**

## **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 announced its continuing commitment to counter-piracy by extending Operation Ocean Shield to December 2012.

NATO Forces currently in Operation Ocean Shield:

HDMS ESBERN SNARE (Flagship) - Denmark  
USS LABOON - United States of America  
HNLMS AMSTERDAM – Netherland  
TCG GAZIANTEP – Turkey

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# Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1)