

# News Release



**Allied Maritime  
Command Headquarters  
Northwood  
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## **Italian Admiral Assumes Command of NATO Maritime Task Group**

LONDON: Today, Rear Admiral Gualtiero Mattesi, Italian Navy, assumed command of Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1) from Commodore Christian Rune, Royal Danish Navy. Commodore Rune has been in command of SNMG1 since January 2010.

For part of the year SNMG1 has been operating off the coast of Somalia for NATO's counter piracy mission - Operation Ocean Shield. The Group also completed NATO exercise, Brilliant Mariner in European waters, before taking part in the celebration of the Canadian Navy Centennial.

"It has been a great honour to be the first Danish commander of SNMG1. It has been a great pleasure to work with skilled ships and crews of other NATO nations once again showing the level of skill and ability to work together with fellow mariners from other nations. It has been a great experience and I am happy to hand over command to my Italian colleague, Rear Admiral Mattesi", Commodore Christian Rune stated after the ceremony.

Upon assuming command of SNMG1, Rear Admiral Gualtiero Mattesi said: "My staff and I will do our outmost to keep up the good work done by Commodore Rune and his staff. It is a great honour to assume command of SNMG1".

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

**Background Information:**

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.

**Media Inquiries only to:**

Public Affairs Officer

+44 (0)1923 956763

+44 (0) 7747 008508

<mailto:pio@manw.nato.int>

FACEBOOK Group: CTF 508 Operation OCEAN SHIELD

Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1)