

# News Release



**Allied Maritime  
Command Headquarters  
Northwood**



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## **NATO WARSHIP ESBERN SNARE CONDUCTS HER SECOND PIRATE DISRUPTION WITHIN 24 HOURS IN GULF OF ADEN**

LONDON: Early this morning Royal Danish Navy warship HDMS ESBERN SNARE, operating as the Flagship for NATO's counter-piracy Operation OCEAN SHIELD off the Horn of Africa, disrupted yet another group of suspected pirates preparing to attack innocent merchant vessels transiting in the International Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) in the Gulf of Aden. This is the second skiff of suspected pirates that warship ESBERN SNARE has disrupted in the past 24 hours. Shortly after daybreak, a sailor on 'look out' watch spotted a suspicious skiff with 7 persons on board. When ESBERN SNARE moved closer to the skiff, the suspected pirates onboard, realising that they had been spotted were seen throwing a pirate ladder and weapons overboard. The Danish warship quickly sent their boarding team to search the skiff and apprehend the suspected pirates for further questioning. The search of the skiff revealed an AK47 assault rifle, an additional outboard engine, and a large quantity of fuel which the Danish boarding team confiscated due to security concerns.

End text.

**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 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  
USS LABOON – United States of America

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# Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1)