

# News Release



## Headquarters Allied Maritime Command Northwood



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### **NATO Co-operation with Japan continues**

Close co-operation between NATO units and other forces has led to the successful disruption of pirate activities in the Gulf of Aden. Key to this success has been the ability of naval and air assets from different nations, such as Japan, to rapidly respond to any detection of pirate activity.

Earlier this week, the Commanding Officers of Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 and 2, Commodore Christian Rune (Royal Danish Navy) and Commodore Michiel Hijmans (Royal Netherlands Navy), hosted a Japanese delegation on board of HNLMS De Zeven Provinciën in the port of Djibouti.

The Japanese Task Group Commander Captain Yasuhiko Shinomura, the Commanding Officers of JDS Murasame and JDS Yuugiri, and five officers were given a brief on the NATO counter piracy Operation Ocean Shield and cooperation between the forces was discussed.

After the meeting with the Japanese delegation Commodore Rune stated that: "Piracy in the Horn of Africa area has widespread effects on a global scale. The scale of the task calls for a united effort of all the actors in the area. I therefore look forward to operate alongside the Japanese forces and maintain the good relationship".

The Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force has been contributing to the counter piracy effort off the Horn of Africa since 2009, escorting merchant vessels from different nationalities across the Gulf of Aden and conducting daily flights with two Maritime Patrol Reconnaissance Aircraft over the International Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC).

*Ends*

**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.

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 - Denmark  
HNLMS DE ZEVEN PROVINCIEËN – The Netherlands  
USS KAUFFMAN – United States of America

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