

# News Release



**Allied Maritime  
Command Headquarters  
Northwood**



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## **NATO and Indian Counter-Piracy Task Force Commanders Meet**

LONDON – The Commander of NATO’s counter-piracy task force, Commodore Christian Rune, Royal Danish Navy, met with the Commander of the Indian counter-piracy task group, Captain S. Srikant, Commanding Officer of INS DELHI yesterday. Onboard NATO’s flagship, HDMS ESBERN SNARE, in Salalah, Oman, they discussed developments in counter-piracy tactics and improvements in communications and information sharing between the forces.

Commodore Rune said “Indian naval forces’ contribution to the counter-piracy operation in the Horn of Africa region is pivotal to the effort to provide safe passage for international merchant shipping through this very busy maritime corridor. The escorts of merchant ship convoys provided by the Indian Task Force compliments the counter-piracy efforts of the other international organizations, including NATO’s Operation Ocean Shield, in this effort to stop pirates.” Rune added that “The co-operation of all the forces provide the synergy that we need to prevail. We need to ensure that our efforts are employed efficiently. The only solution to repel the scourge of piracy at sea is co-operation between our Naval forces.”

The Indian Navy has deployed a task group to the Gulf of Aden, currently consisting of the INS DELHI, who conducts escorts of convoys for international merchant vessels transiting through the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC). While conducting the escorts, Indian Navy assets co-operate and share information with the international organizations conducting counter-piracy in the Horn of Africa region including task forces from NATO (Operation Ocean Shield), the European Union (Operation Atalanta), Coalition Maritime Forces, and other nations providing unilateral support to the effort.

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

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