



NEWS RELEASE

**Allied Maritime
Command Headquarters
Northwood**



Ref: SNMG2 2010 / 20

3 June 2010

Puntland Security Forces free pirated ship

Early this morning, Puntland Security Forces mounted an operation to free the Panamanian-flagged, pirated ship, QSM Dubai. A force of approximately 50 personnel tracked the pirated vessel as it sailed down the northern coast of Puntland and carried out a surprise boarding to retake control.

Shots were fired during the operation and casualties were sustained. One crew member was killed and another sustained injuries. In addition, two members of the Puntland Security Force were also injured.

USS Cole, part of NATO's counter piracy task force conducting Operation Ocean Shield, was shadowing the QSM Dubai from a distance although they took no part in the actual operation.

Once the Puntland Forces had control of the ship, they requested medical assistance from USS Cole. The doctor from the NATO warship boarded the QSM Dubai once it was safe to do so and provided treatment to the injured.

Notes to editors

1. The QSM Dubai had a cargo of sugar and.
2. QSM Dubai was pirated yesterday (2 June) at the eastern end of the Gulf of Aden

Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2)

3. 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 to 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 offering to countries in the region, upon their request, to help develop their own capacity to combat piracy. This complements the existing international efforts as coordinated with the Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia (CGPCS).
4. NATO recently announced its commitment to counter piracy by extending Operation Ocean Shield to December 2012.
5. The NATO Task Force consists of 5 ships from Standing NATO Maritime Group 2. These are:
 - HMS CHATHAM (Flagship) – UK
 - USS COLE – US
 - TCG GELIBOLU – Turkey
 - HS LIMNOS - Greece
 - ITS SCIROCCO – Italy

Media Inquiries only to:

Public Affairs Officer

+44 (0)1923 956763

+44 (0) 7747 008508

<mailto:pio@manw.nato.int>

Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2)