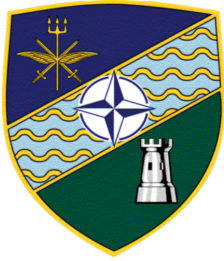


News Release



**Maritime
Command Headquarters
Northwood**



2 December 2011

Norwegian P-3 Crews Receive NATO's Africa Medal

London: On 16 November, Commander Maritime Air Northwood, Rear Admiral Jacques de Solms (FRA N) presented the Norwegian P-3 SAINT detachment with the non-article 5 NATO Africa Medal for their deployment as part of NATO's counter-piracy mission, Operation Ocean Shield.

Rear Admiral de Solms complimented the P-3 detachment saying, "The SAINT detachment has done an outstanding and exemplary job in the counter-piracy effort. Maritime Command Northwood is extremely pleased with their results and we look forward to many more Norwegian detachments in the future. Their professionalism and ability to conduct surface search (SSC) and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) gathering have proven, yet again, that maritime air is an invaluable asset to counter piracy operations."

Throughout their three month operational cycle, the SAINT detachment has flown over 200 hours and created optimum intelligence assessments. They have been directly responsible for the disruption of numerous pirate attacks in the Somali Basin and by providing detailed images, contributed to pirate prosecutions.

The area where the pirates operate is so large that NATO warships need to have information so that they can patrol and search in an effective manner and locate pirate vessels afloat. The P-3 is a "force multiplier" because with its height, speed and sensor range it is able to patrol large areas of ocean in one mission. While the ground crew maintains effective administrative and maintenance proficiency, the aircrew is able to not only disrupt actual pirate attacks, but also provide detail images used in pirate prosecutions.

The Norwegian, SAINT detachment has been deployed to the Seychelles involved in Operation Ocean Shield since September and expect to be home by Christmas.

Ends

Background Information:

The non-article 5 NATO Africa medal is given to those serving in counter piracy operations in the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden for 30 days or more.

The Norwegian P-3N has a range of approx. 5000nm and combat radius of 1300nm. It can fly for up to 8 hours and has a service ceiling of approx. 34 000. It is SAR capable (search and rescue: with droppable survival kit containing 2 large rafts and generic survival equipment). It has satellite

communications and multiple radio communications (UHF, VHF, HF and Iridium). It has IR & EO (infrared and electro optics) and is Rover Capable (this is a direct video feed of the IR/EO sensor to a ship that has the compatibility to watch the feed-i.e. Live video)
It carries Tactical common data-link (TCDL-basically a data link of information between ships and aircraft)

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