

News Release



Allied Maritime
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Northwood
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NATO and Russia Exercise Together in Gulf of Aden

London: Yesterday, NATO and Russian Counter Piracy Forces met in the Gulf of Aden to look at the practicalities of conducting refuelling at sea between NATO and Russian ships. This was the tactical part of an ongoing dialogue between NATO and Russia which aims to foster closer cooperation in counter piracy operations.

Two weeks ago, the NATO Task Force Commander Rear Admiral TOSUN met with his Russian counterpart Captain 1st Rank Ildar Ahmerov. The Commanders talked about the various areas where NATO and the Russian Task Force could cooperate, one of which was refuelling at sea.

To that end, refuelling at sea was conducted between a NATO and an EU ship and between two Russian ships. During both refuelling operations, NATO personnel were embarked on the Russian flagship and Russian personnel were on board the NATO flagship so both crews could observe refuelling at sea methods and procedures.

Afterwards, Rear Admiral TOSUN said "I am very pleased to see positive results of our meeting after so short a time. As a sign of our determination to work together, this first step was important to ascertain refuelling at sea capability between NATO and Russian units in the near future."

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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 2 (SNMG2) is permanently assigned to NATO. It is a multi-national Naval Group that provides the NATO Alliance with the ability to respond quickly to crisis situations anywhere in the world. It is 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. These include non-combatant evacuations, consequence management, counter terrorism, crisis response and embargo operations. Its command rotates amongst the contributing nations and SNMG 2 is currently commanded by Rear Admiral (LH) Sinan Azmi TOSUN, Turkish Navy.

NATO Forces currently in Operation Ocean Shield:

TCG GIRESUN – Turkey (flag hsip)
HDMS ABSALON – Denmark
ITS GRECALE – Italy
USS DEWERT - United States of America
USS CARNEY - United States of America
Challenger 640 Aircraft - Denmark

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