

# News Release



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## **COUNTER PIRACY COMMANDERS MEET IN GULF OF ADEN**

The Commanding Officers of the three largest Counter Piracy Task Forces in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean met on board the EUNAVFOR flagship HNLMS Evertsen on October 26 in the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor in the Gulf of Aden, one of the world's busiest shipping routes between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Commodore Steve Chick, Commander of Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2) said after the meeting:

"the foundation of success for any military operation is close cooperation between all parties to ensure the maximum effect is achieved with the forces available: the failure of the pirates to press home any attacks in the Gulf of Aden and have only very limited success further out in the Indian Ocean is testament to the effectiveness of our operations and the unity of effort from all involved. Today my colleagues and I discussed how we are going to build on that success. I am very pleased with the working relationships we have established between the NATO, EU and CMF Task Groups, which will help guarantee a smooth transition when SNMG1 assume responsibility for the NATO contribution next month."

**Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2)**

Cdre Chick, met Commodore Pieter Bindt, Force Commander of the European Naval Force Somalia (EU NAVFOR) and Rear Admiral Scott Sanders, Commander of the Combined Task Force 151 (CTF 151) to evaluate their recent initiatives to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of their combined counter piracy forces and discuss ways ahead for continuous improvement.

Presently there are approximately 27 ships from 16 different nations conducting counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. They are part of EU NAVFOR, NATO, CTF 151, or nationally deployed, like Japan, China, India and Saudi Arabia.

Currently, four ships have been pirated in the Somali Basin during October while none have been pirated in the Gulf of Aden. However, the efforts of merchant ships increasingly committing to the best management practices, the activities of the counter piracy forces and the efforts of the regional authorities, managed to keep the vast majority of ships transiting through this huge area safe.

All three Commanders agree that the solution is in stability and a rule of law on land and a regional capacity to deter, disrupt and protect against pirate attacks.

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