

# News Release



**Allied Maritime Command  
Northwood**



14 April 2010

Ref: MANW 2010/02

## **NATO's "Brilliant Mariners" Rescue 3 Sailors From Sinking Vessel in Danish Waters**

Danish Minehunter HMDS Makrelen was diverted from the major NATO exercise "Brilliant Mariner 2010" late last night, 13 April, to rescue two adults and one teenage girl from the sinking cutter Kristine.

Danish Navy Command Operations Room received a call just before midnight from the Danish Police reporting a report that the vessel Kristine was taking on water and had no power or propulsion to pump the water out. The boat was sinking near Hjelm Dyb in the Kattegat close to Ebeltoft. The owner requested emergency services from his mobile phone. The Command Centre launched a SAR helicopter and diverted the minehunter from the exercise to help search for the vessel and crew.

Lt Cdr Mette Stab-Nielsen a Mine Warfare Officer from HMDS Makrelen said:

"We found the location of the vessel by using flares to illuminate the area and our Infra Red equipment to locate the faint signature of the vessel but due to the dark conditions we called the worried owner of the Kristine on his mobile phone to guide us to his location. The wind and sea conditions were fair but the water was very cold. It would not have been safe to be in the water for very long in those conditions.

They were very happy to be rescued from the Kristine. Once we had got them safely on board Makrelen our sailors brought pumping equipment and stabilised the vessel ready for towing to

port. The Danish ship Freya provided the tow for the Kristine while we returned the relieved owners unharmed to the shore at Ebeltoft very early this morning.”

It is understood the Kristine was in 20 metres of water and that the owners had only recently taken ownership of the vessel.

Lt Cdr Stab-Nielsen added that the NATO ship was very pleased to be able to help in this incident: “It is a job we are here to do – although it stopped us for mine-hunting on the Exercise for an hour or so, we gain valuable training from real world incidents. We are always on duty for these SAR incidents.”

Danish vessels were taking part in the International NATO Exercise Brilliant Mariner 2010 as part of the SNMCMG 1 Force comprising 13 International Navy ships undergoing tasks such as Mine Hunting, Ordnance Clearing and Maritime Security Operations in support of the objectives of Brilliant Mariner. The Group of Mine hunter ships will be visiting Aalborg from 23 April to 26 April 2010 and some of the ships will be open to the public between 1300 and 1700 on Saturday 24 April.

Further information regarding NATO and Allied Maritime Command Northwood is available from email [pio@manw.nato.int](mailto:pio@manw.nato.int).

Exercise Website address: [http://www.manw.nato.int/page\\_Brilliant\\_mariner\\_home\\_page.aspx](http://www.manw.nato.int/page_Brilliant_mariner_home_page.aspx)

For more information on this story on the Danish Navy website see this Hyperlink:

<http://forsvaret.dk/SOK/Nationalt/soeredning/Pages/3349-10.aspx>

#### **Notes to Editors:**

1. The Allied Press Information Centre for NATO Exercise Brilliant Mariner 2010 is located Frederikshavn, Denmark from 13 – 22 April. Media enquiries regarding the Exercise can be dealt with by NATO Press Officers on +45 9922 4460 (08.00 – 18.00) or out of hours on +44 7769628843.