

News Release



Allied Maritime
Command Headquarters
Northwood
www.manw.nato.int



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NATO Counter Piracy Flag Ship ITS Andrea Doria visits Mombasa

London: ITS ANDREA DORIA, NATO's counter piracy task force flagship left Mombasa yesterday (18th September) after a period of rest, repairs and maintenance in Kilindini Harbour. The port visit was a good opportunity for Rear Admiral Gualtiero Mattesi (ITA N), Commander of the counter piracy task force to meet with local authorities and officers from the Kenyan Navy to assure them that NATO remains firm in its commitment to fighting piracy in the region.

Rear Admiral Gualtiero Mattesi and the Commanding Officer of the ITS ANDREA DORIA, Capt. Fabrizio Cerrai hosted a meeting on board with the Kenyan Navy represented by Col. Kombe and Col. Kambuni, and the Mombasa Provincial Commissioner Ernest G. Muny. This visit allowed RAdm Mattesi to explain the role of NATO's counter piracy mission, Operation Ocean Shield off the Horn Of Africa (HOA) and Indian Ocean and gave an opportunity to share with local authorities the importance of the coastal security even inside territorial waters to ensure merchant vessels are as safe as possible from pirate attacks. The presence of the Kenyan Navy improved the strong relationship that already exists between NATO and the Kenyan Navy and it provides a basis for the opportunity of a future joint training at sea.

On the 14th September the Task Force Chief of Staff, Cdr. Alexandre Serrano and Capt. Fabrizio Cerrai visited the Piracy Information Sharing Centre (ISC) in Mombasa. The NATO staff highlighted the work of the NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) regarding counter piracy, namely the reports available on the website giving updates on the latest pirate attacks.

The port visit finished with a short press conference on 17th September with local media; Standard Newspaper and Kenyan Television Network. Staff provided a short brief to show a more complete vision of the NATO Counter Piracy effort in the Indian Ocean.

Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1)

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 1 is permanently assigned to NATO. It is a multi-national Naval Group that provides the NATO Alliance with the ability to quickly respond to crisis situations anywhere in the world. 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 that will include non-combatant evacuations, consequence management, counter terrorism, crisis response, embargo operations, etc.

NATO has announced its continuing commitment to counter-piracy by extending Operation Ocean Shield to December 2012.

NATO Forces currently in Operation Ocean Shield:

- ITS Andrea Doria (Flagship) - Italy
- USS Carney - USA
- USS De Wert – USA
- NRP D. Francisco De Almeida - Portugal

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