

News Release



**Allied Maritime
Command Headquarters
Northwood**



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Dutch submarine Zeeleeuw completes NATO counter piracy mission

For the past 2 months Dutch submarine HNLMS Zeeleeuw (Sealion) has been part of NATO's counter piracy mission, code-named Operation Ocean Shield.

The submarine has been patrolling off the coast of Somalia, gathering intelligence about the modern day pirates that prowl the Indian Ocean in search of merchant ships to hijack. Able to operate in shallow waters, Zeeleeuw has been able to monitor the pirate camps that operate along the coast and pass information to the maritime forces operating out at sea.

Speaking about Zeeleeuw's contribution to Operation Ocean Shield, Rear Admiral Hank Ort, who is the Chief of Staff at NATO HQ Northwood, said "NATO's counter-piracy mission has been strengthened by the presence of a Dutch submarine. The intelligence she was able to provide contributed to the identification and suppression of known pirate groups".

As well as a submarine, NATO currently has five warships in Ocean Shield. The warships work with the other maritime forces, such as the Combined Maritime Force (CMF) and the EU's Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) to deter and disrupt acts of piracy off the Horn of Africa.

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