



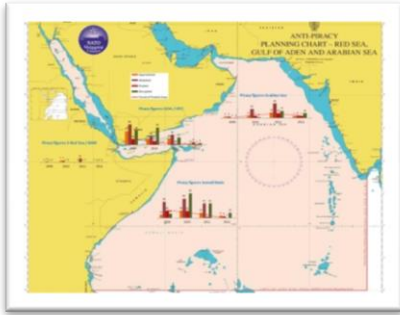
NATO SHIPPING CENTRE NEWSLETTER

January 2013

NATO'S SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING COMMUNITY

Tel: +44(0)1923956574

Mail: info@shipping.nato.int Web: www.shipping.nato.int



A look at last year's piracy statistics

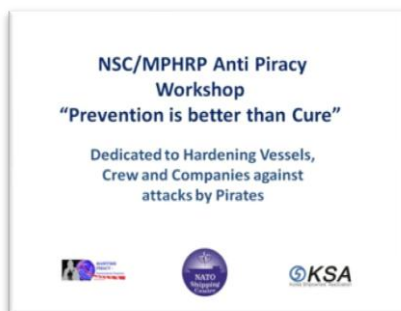
2012 was an encouraging year for counter piracy. The statistics show a significant drop in piracy activity and a decrease of piracy attacks in the HRA by more than 80%.

The year started as normal with what has become a regular level of activity in the HRA. NATO's numbers show that by the end of May 2012 7 ships had been hijacked and 28 attempts had been disrupted. Once the SW monsoon arrived in the area, piracy activity levels dropped. Since May there has not been a single

successful highjacking in the HRA and our assessment is that a vigilant and BMP-compliant shipping industry together with the presence of naval forces have contributed to deter piracy.

Even though levels are low there is no room for complacency by ships transiting the area. The pirates are still capable and motivated. Stay vigilant and ensure that 2013 does not become an encouraging year for piracy.

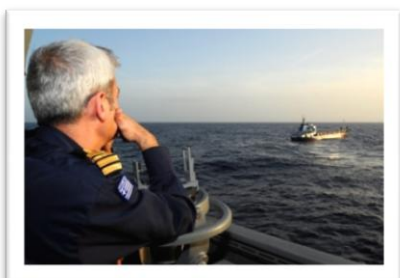
[Click here to read NATO's piracy statistics for 2012](#)



NSC and MPHRP engages industry in Korea

As part of our ongoing industry liaison, the NSC will participate in the UN-lead Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia WG3 meeting in Seoul. The February meeting will discuss issues such as the BMP, size of the HRA and the ISO standard for armed guards on board.

While in South Korea, the NSC will arrange an anti-piracy workshop in cooperation with MPHRP, IMO, BIMCO, OCIMF, South Korean Seafarers Union and South Korean National Shipping Authority. Our workshop – “Prevention is better than cure” will focus on hardening vessels, crew and companies against pirate attacks.



Taking responsibility for Operation Active Endeavour

On the 22nd of February HQ MARCOM, where NSC is based, will take full responsibility for Operation Active Endeavour from MC Naples. This brings new challenges and opportunities to the unified NATO Maritime Command.

Over the last months, the NSC team has prepared for the transition and is ready to take on the operation, whose goal is to detect and deter terrorist activity in the Mediterranean. As an 'article 5' operation it is relevant to wider international efforts to combat terrorism and, in particular, the proliferation and smuggling of weapons of mass destruction, as well as enhanced cooperation with non-NATO countries and civilian agencies.

In the NSC, we are focused on supporting the maritime community by providing guidance and advice on the security situation in the Mediterranean. Currently there are no indications of an increased threat to merchant ships in the area.



NATO and EU disrupts a Pirate Action Group

Late on Sunday 6th January, the NATO warship, USS Halyburton and the EUNAVFOR ship FS Surcouf worked together to disrupt a pirate vessel which is believed to have attacked a merchant ship earlier that day.

The Panama-flagged merchant vessel was en route from Salalah to Mombasa when she was approached by a suspected pirate skiff with 6 people on board, off the eastern coast of Somalia.

While the crew assembled in the ship's secure citadel from where they broadcasted a distress message, the on-board Armed Security Team took up position and exchanged fire with the suspected pirates. As a result, the suspected pirates fell back with no personnel injured and only minor superficial damage to the ship, the merchant vessel was free to continue her transit to Mombasa.

While the attack was underway, the USS Halyburton proceeded towards the suspected pirates' position and within a few hours they located 12 suspected pirates on board a motor whaler. The whaler appeared to be acting as a 'mothership' together with one smaller skiff possibly used in the attack. The search and subsequent location of the suspected pirates was carried out with the support of a German Maritime Patrol Aircraft and the EUNAVFOR ship FS Surcouf.

"With such a large area of operation, the cooperation of the whole counter piracy community is an essential pre-requisite. Today, we demonstrated yet again that we work best when we work together" – said Rear Admiral Antonio NATALE commenting after the event.

The pirates were detained on board the FS Surcouf.



Counter Piracy from the abyss

Last month the crew of the Dutch submarine, HNLMS Bruinvis were awarded NATO's Africa medal for their work as part of Operation Ocean Shield.

The medal ceremony took place at Canary Wharf in London and was attended by Rear Admiral Ian Corder (RN) Commander of NATO's Submarine Force and by Peter Hinchliffe, Secretary General of the International Chamber of Shipping among other members of the merchant shipping community.

Before awarding the crew their medals, RAdm Corder said "During your deployment you've sailed an extensive amount of sea miles. Your professionalism and enthusiasm gave both NATO and the Dutch submarine service a position where they've used your capabilities with all available confidence. Although the counter piracy mission may look different from more traditional submarine missions, you've proven again the invaluable contribution of a submarine in the NATO counter piracy effort."

Peter Hinchliffe also addressed the crew saying "I express thanks to the Government of the Netherlands for the commitment that has seen HNLMS Bruinvis deploy for this patrol. We are witnessing a unique collaborative effort on counter piracy where military and civilian units each have a part to play - we cannot have success without the maintenance of these responsibilities."

The Secretary General continued "The message must be relayed loud and clear to all maritime governments that any reduction in either political will or deployment levels can only lead to a rapid return to the state of lawlessness and despair that prevailed just a few short months ago.

Thank you and *Veel-dank namens aller raders voor uw werk. Behden-vaart en un hoed Nieuwjaar*" he concluded.

Stay vigilant, stay safe



Cdr sg Stein Olav Hagalid
Branch Head
NATO Shipping Centre

The NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) is the link between NATO naval forces and the merchant shipping community. Permanently manned, the NSC is also the primary advisor to merchant shipping regarding potential risks and possible interference with maritime operations. In addition to our current missions, the NSC supports NATO, national and multinational Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS) operations and exercises. The NSC is part of the Allied Maritime Command Headquarters Northwood in the UK.

E-mail: info@shipping.nato.int **Phone:** +44 1923 956574 **Fax:** +44 1923 956575