

# News Release



Maritime  
Command  
Northwood  
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## **Danish Aircraft Leaves Operation Ocean Shield After Successful Deployment**

Today, the Danish maritime patrol aircraft leaves Operation Ocean Shield and heads back home after 2 months in the Indian Ocean working as part of NATO's counter piracy mission.

During her deployment the Danish CL-604 aircraft flew a total of 37 missions producing well over 220 flight hours in support of the counter piracy mission. Of these, approx. 100 hours were on station hours in either the Indian Ocean or near the Somali coast searching for pirates at sea or collecting information on known piracy related locations. This resulted in some 100 hours of video and more than 4000 photographs which were analysed in order to help the ships at sea patrol more effectively.

The excellent support to Operation Ocean Shield was warmly welcomed by the Maritime Command. Rear Admiral Jacques de Solms, Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, stated that the Danish MPA is a force multiplier and that the air and ground crews deployed to the Seychelles had done a superb job.

In addition, two Danish Air Force officers were based at Northwood HQ acting as liaison for the aircraft. Rear Admiral de Solms said,

"I would like to recognize Major Chris Jorgenson and Major Torben Carlsen of the Danish Air Force for their work covering the Danish MPA's operational deployment to the Seychelles. I know for a fact that their diligent work and professional attitudes have directly contributed to the positive outcomes seen across the board in our counter-piracy fight. We are highly appreciative of their

effort and contributions and, without doubt, look forward to working with them here again at the Maritime Command in the very near future.”

### **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.

NATO Allies agreed on 19 March 2012 to extend Operation Ocean Shield for a further two years until the end of 2014.

NATO Forces currently in Operation Ocean Shield:  
HNLMS Rotterdam (flagship) The Netherlands  
USS Halyburton (United States of America)

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