

News Release



Allied Maritime
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www.manw.nato.int



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NATO and the Seychelles pursue Cooperation on Counter Piracy

NATO's counter piracy flagship, ITS Andrea Doria, has just completed a successful port visit to the Seychelles between September 30 and October 4, 2011. This visit focused on NATO's cooperation with the Seychelles Coast Guard and other key actors involved in combating piracy, as pirate activity is increasing after the monsoon season.

The commander of NATO's counter piracy taskforce, Rear Admiral Gualtiero Mattesi engaged in a series of meetings with the Seychelles Defence Forces and local authorities to discuss cooperation between Victoria and NATO in the field of counter piracy. This is NATO's eighth visit to Port Victoria in 2011. Previous port visits this year have been opportunities for NATO and the Seychelles to share experiences and to conduct mutual counter piracy exercises. On this last occasion, Rear Admiral Mattesi and his staff visited the Seychelles' Coast Guards and Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), two organisations deeply committed to counter piracy efforts in the Indian Ocean.

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 presently 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
RFA Fort Victoria - UK
USS Carney - USA
USS De Wert – USA
NRP D. Francisco De Almeida - Portugal

Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1)

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